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October 29, 1988 ■ \$2.75

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OUTLOOK

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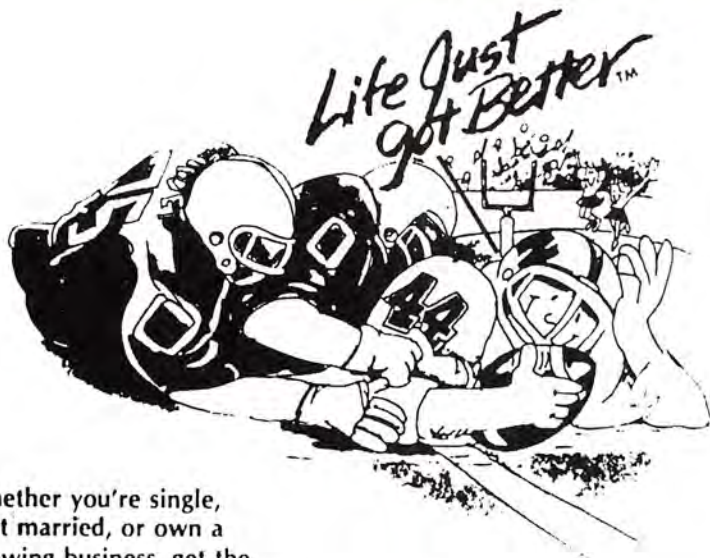
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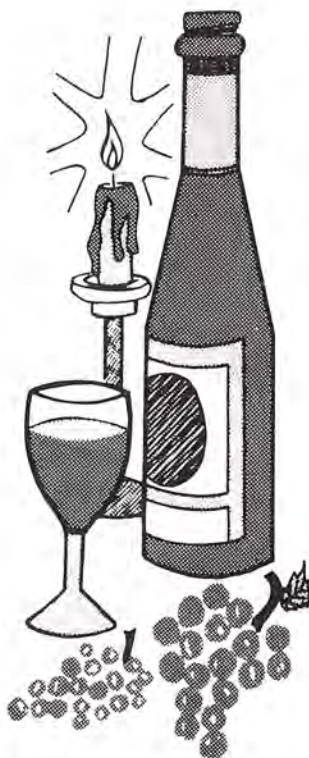
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LETTERS

PICK THE SCORE

Dear Huskers:

I have the opportunity (or is it the misfortune?) of picking up the Barry Switzer call-in radio show near me, and I recently heard a rather narrow-minded fan call in and ask Switzer why he thought Tom Osborne was always running up the score on people. Well, to my surprise, Switzer defended Nebraska and Coach Osborne quite sternly by saying the Huskers obviously had much more talent than most of their opponents.

I would just like to use this time to express my clear support for Nebraska's program. It's not our fault that our team is very good. And it's not our fault when an opponent does not have its program at the level of the Huskers. But we certainly don't see Tom Osborne throwing passes way down the field like Jimmy Johnson did when Miami had Florida State down by 24 points late in the fourth quarter. I would have been ashamed. Throwing down the field with a 24-point lead! That's awful.

Sure, Nebraska may occasionally throw passes with a big lead, but I think you'll find that they are always short passes or just over to the sideline, just meant to pick up a first down.

Darrell Watkins
Kansas City, Mo.

AIR OPTION

Dear Huskers:

I have a suggestion for Coach Osborne on his passing "spread formation." Let's try it from the wishbone, where the two halfbacks are lined up like a normal wishbone, but then on the snap of the ball, they run upfield into pass patterns while the fullback just stays back and blocks like he normally does.

I think this would freeze the defense because we wouldn't be showing them a definite passing formation. Then, all we would have to do is fake to the fullback like we were going to option and then throw the ball to a receiver or running back. I have worked on this diagram quite a bit, and I don't think a defense could stop it. Go Big Red!

Robby Halstead
Concordia, Kan.

JOE WHO?

Dear Huskers:

Could you tell me if I have heard something wrong? Listening to the games on the radio, I have heard Joe Sims mentioned at defensive tackle occasionally, but I thought he came out of the East Coast as a wide receiver. Is there another Sims or is this the same Sims?

Thurman Hopp
Brookshire, Tex.

Thurman: It's the same person. Sims did play split end for Lincoln Sudbury (Mass.) High School, but he also played defensive tackle. When he came to Nebraska at 6-foot-4 and 230 pounds, it was generally agreed he would be a tackle or linebacker. He's put on about 40 pounds since then. Interestingly, LSHS teammate Mike Croel, now a Husker linebacker, was also a receiver (tight end) during his prep days. Naturally, they are both rather quick.

HOPEFUL HOOPS

Dear Huskers:

Thank you for your coverage every week of the Husker basketball team. Danny Nee is without a doubt an outstanding coach, and it looks like the Huskers are headed in the right direction with their great success in recruiting and the way Coach Nee handles himself. I think we have a class act in both football and basketball.

On another matter, I would like to see coverage on the coaching staff for Husker football. I think they are very important people, just like the players. I know the staff doesn't change much at Nebraska, but it would still be nice to get the kind of in-depth stories on them that we're used to seeing on the players. Thanks, and keep up the good work. Let's go to the Orange Bowl!

Lee Mueller
Albion, Neb.

TV TIRADE

Dear Huskers:

I am wondering if the University of

Nebraska has no regard for its fans who only get to see the Huskers when they are on television. This includes multitudes of in-state fans as well as us from out-of-state throughout the country. We relish any opportunity to see "our team" play when it is impossible to attend the games even if we could get tickets. It appears on the surface to be a very selfish decision on someone's part at the University. You are not only depriving your fans but also every other school in the Big Eight that shares in the revenue. I would think you would hear from these respective athletic directors. What about Oklahoma State; did they have any voice in the decision?

You readily accept our donations to the athletic program, but I'm wondering that if you don't need this TV revenue maybe the donations should stop as well. Maybe Steve Taylor doesn't have that good a chance to win the Heisman, but Barry Sanders does and I believe he deserves to be showcased. After all, he is part of our conference. You may also note that Colorado rescheduled its game time to accommodate ESPN for their game with Oklahoma, from which Nebraska will share in the revenue.

I am very upset and disappointed that we did not get to see this important game with Oklahoma State. Maybe you people are getting a bit too high and mighty for us common fans who have supported you through thick and thin (49 years).

Larry D. Kramer
Arvada, Colo.

GETTING BETTER

Dear Huskers:

I have followed the Huskers faithfully for 22 years, and this is the most unusual Nebraska team I've seen so far. We have given up more than 40 points twice already this season, but we have also scored more than 60 points twice in the same year. This is obviously a very talented football team, but we're just having trouble putting it all together in one game.

In some ways this inconsistent stuff is not good, and it will be even worse if we don't change it. But that's the bright spot. I can't help but think the Huskers *will* improve in the last games.

You know, that's not like us. Usually, we hit our stride early because Tom Osborne has such a consistent program instilled in the players, and then we level out towards the end while Oklahoma usually finishes strong.

This year, I think we will be the one who finishes strong instead of Oklahoma. We're still hungry. We're still working hard to get better. Even though we

lost to UCLA early, I think we will still be going to the Orange Bowl and finish up either No. 1 or No. 2 in the country. Sid Hollingsworth
Beatrice, Neb.

We want to hear your comments and answer your questions. Please address them to "Letters," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■

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Eye of the Storm

KEN CLARK HAS BECOME A FORCE IN ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST GLAMOROUS COLLEGE FOOTBALL POSITIONS — NEBRASKA I-BACK.



Ken Clark was not exactly a household name when he started his Nebraska football career. But the junior from Omaha Bryan High, the No. 1 Cornhusker I-back, is in the process of changing all that.

Last year, as a redshirt sophomore, Clark's picture wasn't even in the press guide. But Clark was understanding. The oversight was nothing new. He also received little attention when he was recruited as part of a much-publicized class that included Steve Taylor, Broderick Thomas, LeRoy Etienne and Richard Bell.

Yet, before last season began, Clark was alternating with Tyreese Knox as the backup to All-Big Eight I-back Keith Jones, who is now with the LA Rams.

Despite missing the last two games of the 1987 season (Iowa State and Oklahoma) because of a knee injury, and only playing briefly against Colorado without carrying the ball, Clark finished as the Huskers' fifth-leading rusher with 344 yards and five touchdowns.

And now he's No. 1 at the No. 1 position in Nebraska's I-formation attack.

The 5-foot-9, 195-pound Clark was born in Evergreen, Ala. His mother (his father died when Ken was a youngster) moved the family of five boys and one girl to Omaha the summer before Ken was to enter the eighth grade.

"I'm the oldest of the children," Clark said. "My mom is a secretary at the First National Bank in Omaha, but it's always been a little tough for us financially. I've tried to do a little extra to help, especially in looking after the other kids. But I don't consider that a burden. I enjoy the responsibility. In fact, my brothers came down and lived with me in Lincoln for a month last summer."

Ken first played football in Alabama when he was 8 years old.

"But that was just neighborhood, sandlot football," Clark said. "When I got into organized sports as a ninth-grader, that's when I started to excel."

Clark stated that he had several choices when it came to deciding which high school to attend in Omaha. Many schools showed a lot of interest in the young, talented athlete. After some consideration, the confident Clark chose to go with the smaller Bryan High for two reasons.

"First, I liked the I-formation they ran," he said. "Secondly, I had never played second string to anybody and I knew I could be a starter at Bryan as a sophomore."

Clark also played prep basketball his junior year.

"We made it to the state tournament," he recalls. "We never did that in football."

"In fact, some people told me basketball was my best sport," Clark added. "I'm not very tall, but I even played center one game because I had the best jumping ability on the team. But I didn't play basketball as a senior because of an injury that kept me out of the last part of my final year of football."

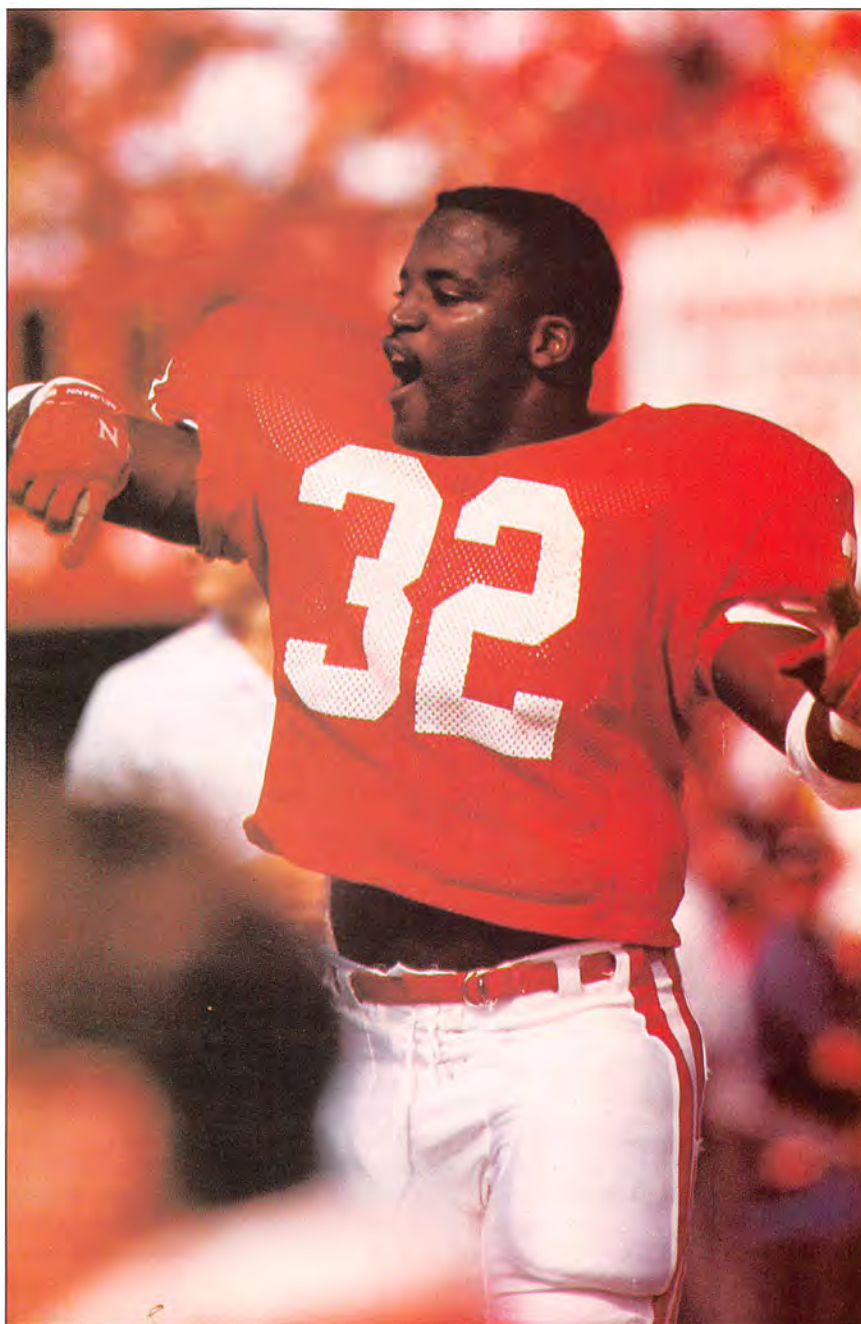
An all-state running back in football, Clark was the first Bryan High gridder to receive a scholarship offer from Nebraska.

As a team, Bryan wasn't very impressive. But Clark was.

"The first time I saw Kenny play," NU Coach Tom Osborne remembers, "I went up to watch a couple of Omaha Central kids in a game against Bryan. But instead of the players I went to watch, I kept noticing Kenny. He did a good job as a running back and also made some great plays as a defensive back. From that one impression I really liked him. He had some injury problems that year, so he didn't complete the season. As a result, he came in here without a whole lot of publicity."

Osborne says that Clark "didn't fit in the way he wanted to when he first got on campus."

Clark said he was discouraged from the beginning after suffering a badly sprained ankle in the Shrine Bowl all-star game the summer after his senior



Ken Clark is on track to be Nebraska's 13th 1,000-yard rusher. He's enjoyed success against OSU (opposite photo), running for a season-high 83 yards on the Cowboys in 1987.



With 256 yards rushing against Top 10 OSU, Clark had the second-best rushing day in Husker history.

year in high school.

Clark recovered sufficiently to have a solid, although not spectacular, freshman season. He averaged nearly 6 yards per carry.

But it was the next year, when he redshirted, that his career almost ended.

"I didn't realize what it would be like to sit out the whole year, practicing every day, yet not be able to play in the games," Clark said. "It was hard for me to deal with mentally. The coaches kept telling me it was something almost everyone has to go through. Even Doug DuBose had to do it.

"But, even then," Clark added, "I came close to leaving a couple of times. I had some injuries that caused me to become real discouraged. I got kind of negative about the whole thing and began to believe that this wasn't the place I was supposed to be. I started cutting classes, missed practices and team meetings. I felt like I was in the Army or something and had to be here. Yet

there are a lot of ways out of the stadium. There are plenty of exits. I could have left and almost did.

"But then I decided there was no use pouting about it," Ken explained. "There I was running the opposing team's plays on the scout squad. And that's no fun. You're always running against Nebraska's No. 1 defense. And that's tough. I didn't look forward to the scrimmages then like I do now."

After a more satisfactory experience as a redshirt sophomore the next fall, Clark rededicated himself to football last summer. He went to summer school classes in the morning, then reported to strength coach Boyd Epley each afternoon. Clark often arrived on campus by 9 a.m., yet wouldn't get back to his apartment until 8:00 at night.

"I made playing football my No. 1 priority," he said. "It wasn't always that way. During my redshirt year I'd stay out late, sleep all morning instead of going to class and then report to practice —

maybe."

Clark said that lack of dedication caused Coach Osborne to call him in. He vividly remembers the meeting they had.

"Coach Osborne told me, 'You can't play football forever. You should get something out of your scholarship while you're here.' And that has stuck with me," Clark said. "I was making a big mistake not to take advantage of my opportunity. I finally realized that you can't get anywhere, whether in the classroom or on the football field, by just going through the motions. You've got to give it your best shot. And that's what I'm trying to do now."

That doesn't mean Clark has become an anti-social stick-in-the-mud.

"I'm not a stay-at-home type of guy," Clark admits. "Of course, during the season, I don't do much. There's not much time for anything but football, although (wingback) Richard Bell and I — we share an apartment — like to go out and play a few games of pool. I'm no 'Minnesota Fats,' but we're pretty evenly matched and real competitive, so it's lots of fun."

Clark said he and Bell struck up a close friendship soon after they both arrived on campus as freshmen.

"We were together in the same dorm our first year," Clark said. "Then I moved out and into an apartment with this other guy. But he wasn't paying his share of the expenses, so I got Richard to take his place.

"At first," Ken recalled, "we were eating all our meals at the training table. The food is great, but I was eating too much of it. I got up to 212 pounds. That's too heavy for me. I couldn't move the way I like. Now I don't come down on campus for breakfast. I just have a bowl of cereal or a donut and I've got my weight back under control again."

In addition to his pool playing with Bell, Clark said his other great outside interest is fishing.

"During the summer, when I was in high school, I'd go fishing almost every day," Clark said. "I haven't done all that much since I've been at Nebraska, although I did catch a 5-pound catfish at a nearby lake one time. The last time I went, Tyreese (Knox) told me about this great spot he knew about. He drove



us way out in the country someplace to this pond on a farm — and we didn't catch a thing."

"Ken's earned everything he's gotten," running back coach Frank Solich said. "He's put in a lot of time and his attitude has been great."

Osborne agrees. "Ken is now to the place where he is a very solid back," the Cornhusker coach said. "He runs well, catches the ball well, has enough speed to go to the outside, yet is tough on his inside running. And he's a pretty good blocker. I think he's gained a lot of confidence. Early on, he was a little apprehensive about starting, carrying the kind of load our I-backs carry. But he's become more comfortable with the situation. I'm real pleased with his progress."

"I'm surprised at how it's all fallen into place," Clark admits, "but I'm not surprised at the fact that I'm doing well. I know I'm capable."

Clark has the ability to shift direction

Clark has averaged over 150 yards a game in the first three games of October.

at full speed.

"That's something I've been able to do ever since playing flag football as a youngster," he said. "You've got to be able to run 'this' way just as fast as you can run 'that' way. I just picked it up. It's something you can't be taught. It just

came natural."

Solich said Clark "will continue to improve and wind up being an excellent I-back for us."

Clark says he has pro football aspirations in his future.

"But that's not my No. 1 goal right now," he insists, "although I keep it in the back of my mind. With the experience I'm gaining this year, and with my senior season still ahead, I think I'll be able to make a pro team."

Clark hopes that this year's playing time will form a solid base upon which to build next fall. Then, he also hopes that by the time his Nebraska career concludes he will be able to join the ranks of such previous Nebraska I-backs as Mike Rozier, Roger Craig, Jeff Smith, Doug DuBose, Keith Jones and others.

If that happens, like them, Ken Clark will also become a household name to Big Red football fans. ■

At 12:01 a.m. on Oct. 15, after 3,000 or so of a turnstile count of the 5,072 who visited the Bob Devaney Sports Center for a variety of activities and events scheduled in conjunction with the University of Nebraska's Homecoming counted down the final seconds, the basketball team was introduced.

The lights were dimmed and a spotlight followed each player onto the court.

After the introductions, the Cornhuskers, divided according to veterans and newcomers, scrimmaged for 30 minutes. The clock ran continuously and so did the Cornhuskers.

"Run and gun. That's our style. I love it," said Eric Johnson, a senior from Brooklyn, N.Y., and this year's captain. "I'm from New York.

"That's the game."

Johnson scored a scrimmage-high 22

coach at Ohio University.

"I think it's a great way to feature our players and bring back some alumni. It's just a positive experience."

Prior to the varsity scrimmage, approximately 40 Nebraska basketball lettermen participated in an alumni scrimmage, consisting of two 20-minute running periods and a 1-minute overtime, required under Nee's "house rules," according to public address announcer Tom Johnson of Omaha's KFAB radio, the flagship station for the Cornhusker basketball network.

The alumni game featured recent Cornhuskers like Henry Buchanan and Andre Smith as well as former greats like Chuck Jura and Herschell Turner, Nebraska's first 1,000-point career scorer who made his first return visit to Lincoln since he left in 1960.

Former Cornhusker stars Bus White-

in the Sports Center's south parking lot, and the basketball activities were preceded at the Sports Center by gymnastics, wrestling and swimming exhibitions as well as a program by the University's glee club. "It just fit like a glove," Nee says.

"We knew we couldn't lose."

This year's basketball team figures to be a winner, too. Nee is optimistic the Cornhuskers can finish in the first division of the Big Eight.

Whether or not his optimism is well-founded depends on how quickly the youngsters mature, of course.

Nebraska had a solid recruiting class, which included Ray Richardson, a highly regarded transfer from Hiwassee (Tenn.) Junior College as well as Owens, Dolezal, Carl Hayes and Lewis Geter.

Neither Hayes nor Geter could participate in the midnight scrimmage. Geter will have to sit out this season because of entrance requirements under the NCAA's Proposition 48. But he's enrolled in classes. Hayes was held out because his eligibility also came into question, two days earlier.

A late-arriving high school transcript had to be sent to the Big Eight Conference, which, in turn, passed the interpretation along to the NCAA.

Nee, clearly upset by the turn of events, was hoping for notification of the NCAA's decision this week.

"All the freshmen are very good players. How quickly they'll adjust to Big Eight basketball is really tough to say. We'll just have to wait and see," said Nee. "I don't want to point to one of them and say, 'I think this guy will do this or that,' especially just starting out. I expect some of our freshmen — and when I say 'some,' I don't know which ones — will have an impact on our team. I think maybe a couple of freshmen will have impact.

"By impact, I mean they're going to play, like King did, or (Beau) Reid or (Cliff) Scales did last season."

With a year's experience, King, Reid and Scales are "the backbone of this team, as I see it," Nee says.

"Their second year around the league, they've got to be ready and start producing on a consistent basis. As those three mature and get better, our whole team

Midnight Madness

points to lead the veteran Reds past the newcomer Whites, 68-44. Richard van Poelgeest contributed 14 points, and Rich King added 10 as the Reds averaged more than 2 points a minute.

Dapreis Owens, a 6-foot-9 freshman from Mansfield, Ohio, led the Whites with 13 points; 2 on a slam dunk that drew enthusiastic audience approval.

Eric Dolezal, a 6-3 freshman from LaPorte, Ind., and Kelly Lively, a 7-0 redshirted freshman from Torrington, Wyo., each scored 12 for the Whites.

"We've got a lot of talent on this team. It's just young," Johnson said.

Coach Danny Nee emphasizes that whenever he talks about his third Cornhusker team. "The big word for Nebraska basketball (this season) is experience," he says. "We don't have enough experience. The nucleus of our program is freshmen and sophomores."

Even so, Nee is optimistic about this season, which is why he scheduled the midnight madness scrimmage as the official opening of practice.

"The kids, and our fans, are at a point now in the program where they want things like this," says Nee, who did something similar when he was the head

head and Henry Cech served as officials.

Approximately 40 alums participated.

"The alumni were out of sight," Nee said later. "It was great to see all those quality guys come back.

"Basically, what I told them (after the game) was, 'Hey, you are Nebraska basketball. You are a tradition, and we're going to build on it.'"

To that end, "we're in the process with the alumni of initiating a hall of fame that Nebraska basketball doesn't have," said Nee. "We think that's real important."

Many of those who participated in the alumni scrimmage would qualify.

Nee didn't consider having the alumni game or the midnight scrimmage his first two seasons.

"I felt we had to wait," he says.

This year, not only was the program ready for such an event but the timing was right. "It was Homecoming, Friday night, a home football game Saturday afternoon. We felt it was perfect," says Nee. "When we found out all the other things happening on campus, it just fell into place."

A Homecoming carnival was set up

will be better."

Johnson and Pete Manning, Nebraska's only seniors, are "the key people" from the standpoint of leadership, according to Nee. "Their consistency night in and night out is going to be the start of everything," he says.

Van Poelgeest, a junior, is the only player who's been in the program for three years. As a result, "he's our most experienced player," Nee says. "We expect good things out of him."

"Richard has improved. He played international ball after he finished our Australian tour, and I expect him to be a factor this season."

Van Poelgeest, who's from the Netherlands, spent the summer competing for the Dutch national team.

Nee continually refers to the value of last spring's tour of Australia and New Zealand in shaping his 1988-89 team.

Since last season ended with a frustrating first-round loss to Kansas State in the Big Eight Tournament at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, "I feel our team has grown, improved and matured," says Nee. "The trip to Australia, the practices beforehand, and, I think, the summer" all have contributed to a maturity that was lacking in last year's team.

The program is gaining stability.

"That means a kid comes in for either four or five years, redshirts, and graduates," Nee says. "I think we're slowly beginning to see stability."

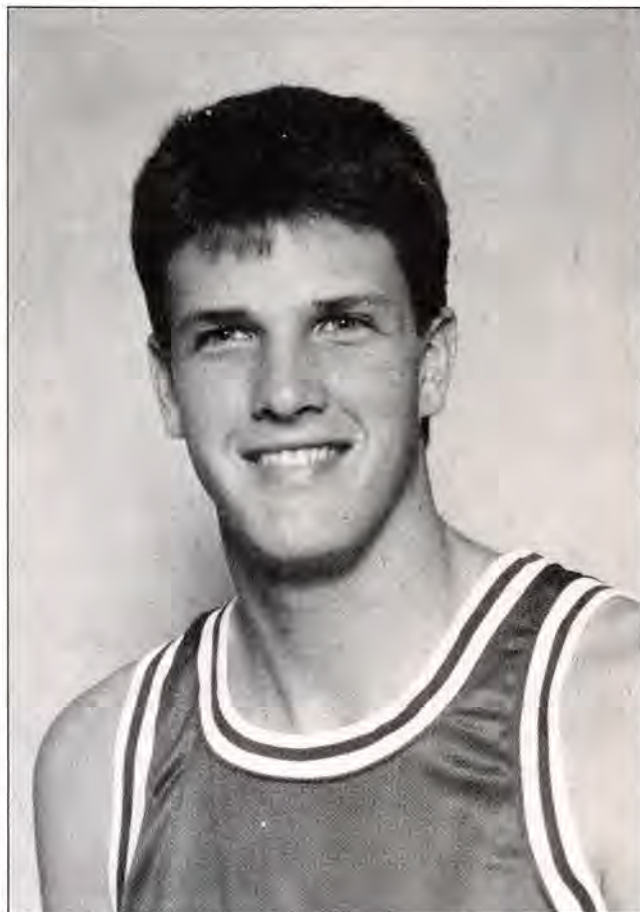
"We're buying fewer new jerseys this year than we did last year. That's a good sign. I think we'll put our names on them next year," he adds, smiling.

The best part, though, is that the athletes in the program now "are hand-picked. They were all picked for their character, their academics, their athletic ability. And what's even better, they all picked us," says Nee.

"That's very important. All the kids we recruited have been in recruiting wars. They could've gone to another school. They didn't have to settle for us. They selected us."

This season's Cornhusker recruiting class was ranked 21st in the nation, which "I think is a great compliment. Finally, we got the recognition," Nee says. "Our staff really prides itself on that (ranking). We worked very hard at

**NU coaches
expect Rich
King to
emerge as a
team leader.**



recruiting, and to be acknowledged really feels good."

Because of things like its geographic location, Nee and his assistants have had to work hard to sell Nebraska.

But "it's a sale that can be made. There are 240 million Americans, according to the last census. We can find 12 good basketball players to come to Nebraska," he says.

"We're not going to get Patrick Ewing or Alonzo Mourning to come here right now, unless he's from the state. So the key to our success will have to be developmental" for the time being.

Nee can live with that.

He's pleased with the progress he's seen in his program.

"I'm disappointed in the win-loss record — you have to take a couple of steps forward and a couple of steps back. But the fan support, the administration support, our facilities, our booster groups, our strength and conditioning program, our scheduling, the cooperation with the press... I think

we're getting a very fair shot from everyone," says Nee.

"It's slowly coming."

The program has reached the point at which Nee felt comfortable making the beginning of practice a public event.

"I don't know what to expect," he said a couple of days before it happened. "But it should be fun."

It was. Nee was obviously gratified by the large crowd in the Sports Center arena. "I'd like to especially thank you people for coming out," he said. "I know it's a sacrifice but we really appreciate it, and we're not going to let you down this year."

"This is going to be our year."

In the locker room afterward, Johnson and his teammates were all smiles.

"I was really surprised," he said of the turnout. "I didn't think people in Nebraska stayed up past midnight. This was my first experience with something like this. It was really good to see the crowd get into it."

"It was a lot of fun." ■

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Rod Henkel

Startling Starters

EVEN THOUGH K-STATE "HELD" THE HUSKERS BETTER THAN OKLAHOMA STATE, TOM OSBORNE WAS HAPPY WITH HIS FIRST-LINE PLAYERS.

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Reggie Cooper, Dana Brinson and Tim Jackson relaxed toward the end of Nebraska's 48-3 win at Kansas State.

They sat in a golf cart on the sidelines, comparing notes and taking a breather. Charles Fryar hung around, too.

Brinson caught some flack for being run out of bounds on a punt return. He and his teammates argued about "who delivered the blow, me or the defensive back from Kansas State."

The NU wingback insisted he laid the leather to the K-State defender, but Fryar claimed the Wildcat knocked Brinson to the sideline.

No matter. With Kansas State well under control, the four Husker friends could afford to chit-chat. They earned a breather.

All the first-team Huskers, in fact, deserved a break in a golf cart's soft seat protected from the Kansas sunshine. They played well.

Nebraska's offense rolled up 622 yards of total offense, 359 in the first half. The Black Shirts limited the Wildcats, who entered the game ranked 13th nationally in passing and averaging 359 yards a game, to 189 total yards.

And although the game's outcome was never in doubt, KSU, now 0-7, actually tested Nebraska, now 7-1, better than Kansas and at times, more effectively than Oklahoma State.

"I think (Kansas State) played about as well as they can play today," said NU Coach Tom Osborne. "I didn't think we were far off. We had a lot of guys play well."

NU's defenders earned Osborne's highest praise.

"I was particularly proud of the defense. I think Kansas State has a good offensive team. It was probably one of

our better defensive days."

Just what the doctor ordered — a solid defensive effort from the Black Shirts.

A Kansas State record field goal of 61 yards by Mark Porter in the first quarter prevented NU's first shutout of the season, but the Wildcats never entered the end zone.

They penetrated to the Nebraska 27 on their second possession (partially due to a 15-yard Nebraska penalty) and to the NU 30 in the second period.

KSU gained 140 of its offensive yards in the opening two quarters, 38 of which came on the Wildcats' first play from

scrimmage. However, the Black Shirts did not allow a long touchdown, a problem hampering them all year.

"They didn't break the big one, which was pleasing," said NU defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. The defense got itself "kind of back in the groove."

Two first-time starters contributed to NU's highly-praised defensive effort. Kent Wells started for the first time at defensive tackle while Bruce Pickens got the nod at left cornerback, replacing injured Lorenzo Hicks.

Kansas State quarterback Carl Straw continuously picked on Pickens after

The Black Shirts smothered K-State's passing attack.



opening the Wildcats' first possession with a long gainer over the junior from Kansas City.

Pickens returned the favor in the third period with an interception and an 18-yard runback. Pickens finished the game with three tackles, as did Chris Caliendo, LeRoy Etienne, Randall Jobman, Brad Ferguson, Cooper, Tahaun

Lewis, and Jon Crippen.

Marvin Sanders led all NU defenders with five total tackles while Jeff Mills, Pat Tyrance, and Mark Blazek had four each.

After Wells began the game a nervous junior, he eventually "felt like the same old thing," and registered three tackles.

The Lincoln East High School gradu-

ate realized his goal of starting for the Black Shirts in the middle of his junior season.

"That's what we come here for," he said. "You want to start."

Wells, like Osborne and McBride, noted an improvement in the NU defense.

"I think we're starting to jell together better. I'm ready for the big games. We have to build on this kind of game."

Back in the groove defensively translates to low opponent scores and keeps the Nebraska offense on the field.

The Huskers owned an 87-56 advantage in number of plays against the Wildcats and kept possession of the ball for 39:10, compared to 20:50 for KSU.

First quarter possession tells the story.

Although Kansas State held Nebraska to its lowest first-quarter point total in three weeks, the Cornhuskers owned the football for 10:12.

NU's three initial drives lasted 11 plays and 80 yards each. I-back Ken Clark carried the ball 13 times in Nebraska's three scoring drives for 161 yards, his total at halftime.

Clark scored his 10th TD of the year on a 32-yard run to give the Huskers a 7-0 lead with 11:03 remaining in the first quarter.

Clark gained nine yards, 17 yards behind blocks by Doug Glaser and Nate Turner, and 28 yards on a fourth-down play during NU's second possession to move over the 100-yard mark on his 10th carry. Tyreese Knox then filled the I-back spot and scored NU's second touchdown on a 2-yard run.

Gregg Barrios added a 36-yard field goal when the Huskers' third 80-yard drive stalled on the Wildcat 19.

With one exception, Nebraska scoring drives shortened for the remainder of the game. Brinson finished a two-play possession with his first receiving touchdown of the season, a 52-yarder from Steve Taylor.

The NU quarterback found Brinson wide open near the K-State 15 and launched a long-hanging strike. "It was like I stood there for an hour waiting," Brinson said.

Barrios' second field goal of the game, a 37-yard effort, climaxed a nine-play march and a six-yard Knox TD run was the fifth play in NU's sixth and fi-



Wingback Dana Brinson pulled in a 52-yard TD pass.

SCORING SUMMARY

Nebraska 48, Kansas State 3

Nebraska.....	14	20	14	0	— 48
Kansas State.....	3	0	0	0	— 3

- Neb — Clark 32 run (Barrios kick).
- KSU — Porter 61 FG.
- Neb — Knox 2 run (Barrios kick).
- Neb — Barrios 36 FG.
- Neb — Brinson 52 pass from Taylor (Barrios kick).
- Neb — Barrios 37 FG.
- Neb — Knox 6 run (Barrios kick).
- Neb — Knox 2 run (Barrios kick).
- Neb — Knox 26 run (Barrios kick).

Attendance: 35,000

nal drive of the opening half.

Knox extended NU's 34-3 halftime advantage to the final margin by rushing for his third and fourth TDs of the day in the third period. His 2-yard run climaxed a 10-play, 89-yard march while his 26-yard jaunt comprised a one-play drive.

The fact Nebraska tallied just two second-half scores resulted because of several factors. Osborne noted poor field position and the wind.

Also, second-string Huskers ran the offense after Knox's final touchdown. Clark ran no more, Taylor did not take another snap, and so forth.

Late in the game, Nebraska's top offensive linemen received a well-deserved rest. And they were still generally healthy.

After the Oklahoma State game, injuries to NU offensive linemen concerned Osborne. Glaser, John Nelson, Jake Young, Andy Keeler and Bob Sledge started against KSU and the injury report following the game included: Keeler, sore ankle; Young, sore elbow. But "all are in pretty good shape," said offensive line coach Dan Young. Even Glaser, who had the "most significant injury," exited K-State's stadium nearly healthy.

Injuries to linemen did not keep Nebraska from running any of its offense. The 41 and 49 pitch plays were "something we kept coming back to," Young said.

One thing, however, did limit the play selection. The Husker coaches tried to avoid having players cut on the Wildcat emblem between the 40-yard lines.

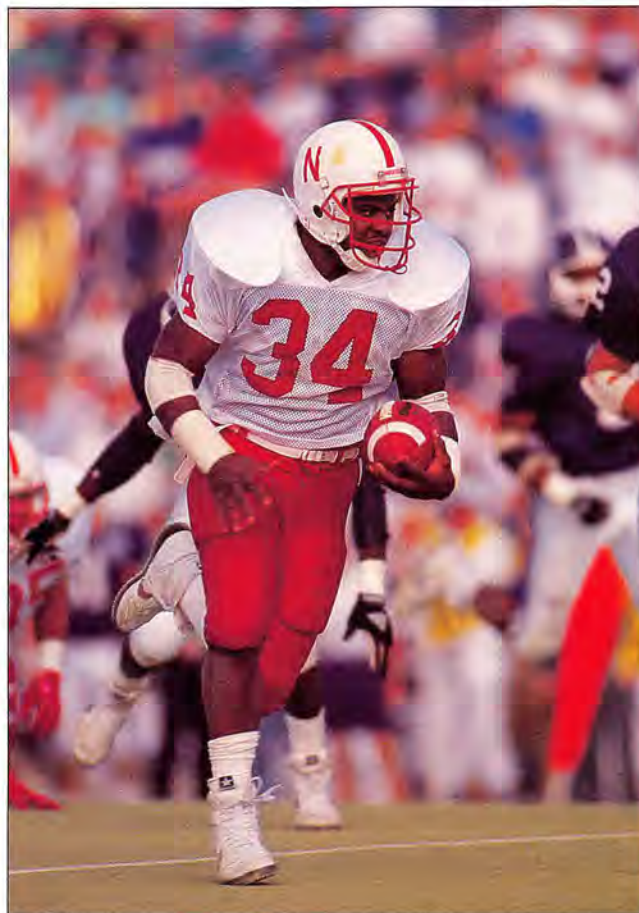
"The emblem in the middle of the field was slick," Young said. "We kind of had to work around it when we got to midfield."

Not much besides the emblem, and an occasional referee who stumbled in his path, slowed Clark.

The Omaha junior put together back-to-back 200-yard rushing days for the first time since Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier finished the 1983 season with four consecutive 200-plus games.

I.M. Hipp gained 200 yards in back-to-back games during the 1977 season and 225 yards on 20 carries Saturday made Clark the third NU back to accomplish the feat. He gained 256 yards

**Tyreese Knox
ripped Kansas
State with four
touchdowns.**



against Oklahoma State.

Nebraska's 479 rushing yards versus Kansas State ranks 11th among all-time performances, but did not come close to Oklahoma's NCAA record 768 rushing yards against KSU a week earlier. NU did not match OU's 70 points, either.

"We could have rushed for over 700, 800 yards — Ken had 225 himself — if that was our intention," Brinson said. "We could have run the ball all day and accomplished that goal."

No need for embarrassment. NU had already achieved its 20th consecutive win over the Wildcats and reached another milestone.

The Cornhuskers made NCAA Division I-A history Saturday by assuring themselves of a 27th-consecutive winning season. Nebraska has posted 26 straight winning campaigns under coaches Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne since a 3-6-1 record in 1961, the year before Devaney came to Lincoln.

Nebraska previously shared the

NCAA Division I-A record for consecutive winning seasons with Penn State (1939-64) and Alabama (1958-83).

The fact Nebraska has won nine or more games in each of the last 19 seasons and in 24 of the previous 26 makes the record more remarkable. The closest the Huskers came to non-winning seasons during the string was 6-4-0 records in 1967 and 1968, the latter year being the last time Kansas State defeated Nebraska.

Kansas State sits on the other end of that measuring stick, the losingest record in the NCAA.

One Cornhusker has experienced both sides.

Jackson, a senior free safety, is believed to be the only player ever to play both for and against Nebraska. He enrolled at Kansas State in 1984 and red-shirted that season, then lettered for the Wildcats as a reserve defensive back in 1985.

In NU's 41-3 win at Manhattan in 1985, Jackson occupied the No. 2 right

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Clark Gets Double-Whammy

First I.M. Hipp, then Mike Rozier. Now Ken Clark.

Those three I-backs represent Nebraska's only players to rush for at least 200 yards in back-to-back games.

Clark completed the feat by gaining 225 yards on 20 carries against Kansas

State. A week earlier, the Omaha junior riddled Oklahoma State's defense for 256 yards, second in NU history behind Rozier's 285-yard record performance.

After quarterback Steve Taylor carried a majority of the offensive load early in the season, Clark has shouldered

more than his share the past two weeks.

During Nebraska's first drive versus the Wildcats, Clark carried six times for 59 yards in an 11-play, 80-yard march.

He ended the drive with a 32-yard touchdown jaunt, his 10th TD of 1988.

Clark gained 56 yards on runs of 9, 17, 2, and 28 yards during NU's second scoring drive and added 46 yards on three carries on the Huskers' third possession.

Nebraska's starting I-back had 161 of his daily total by halftime. Clark did his work despite a sore foot. He did not lose a yard on his 20 carries.

"Ken Clark did a good job," said NU coach Tom Osborne, "for playing at sub par. I don't think he had quite the quickness he normally does."

With his effort in Manhattan, Clark improved his yearly total to 962 yards, just 38 shy of becoming Nebraska's 13th 1,000-yard rusher in a season.

For his career, Clark now has 1,306 yards.

Tyreese Knox also had a good day running against the Wildcats. The senior from Daly City, Calif., carried 19 times for 108 yards. Nebraska totaled 479 yards on the ground in Manhattan, 11th best on the all-time list. Steve Taylor accounted for 163 yards in total offense, running for 34 and passing for another 129.

Wingback Dana Brinson caught his first touchdown pass of the season, a 52-yarder in the second quarter. ■



**Ken Clark
enjoyed his
second
straight
200-yard
game.**



Photo by John Bills



What a difference two years makes. It was gorgeous Saturday, but snowed against KSU in 1986. The outcome, however, was the same.

cornerback spot and made five tackles, three unassisted, against Nebraska and broke up a pass.

Jackson finished the season with 16 total tackles, then transferred to Coffeyville (Kan.) Junior College in the spring. He played for Coach Dick Foster's Red Ravens in 1986, making 67

total tackles and earning all-conference honors. Jackson transferred to Nebraska in the spring of 1987.

Saturday he returned to his former home field for the first time in a Husker uniform.

"I have empathy for them," Jackson said. "I understand. I know what it feels

like."

NU scored against the Wildcats in 1985 with no time remaining on the clock, Jackson said. At the time, he thought, "that's so mean."

Now, "you get a chance to look at the other person's shoes and see the other side of it." ■

SEASON RECAP	8/27 A&M	9/3 USU	9/10 UCLA	9/24 ASU	10/1 UNLV	10/8 KU	10/15 OSU	10/22 KSU	10/29 MU	11/5 ISU	11/12 CU	11/9 OU	BOWL	SEASON AVERAGE
First Downs	19	34	21	29	26	38	28	32						28
Yards Rushing	201	421	260	441	444	547	570	479						420
Yards Passing	125	169	125	29	56	118	92	143						107
Fumbles - Lost	5-3	0-0	2-1	2-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	1-1						2-1
Time of Possession	60%	54%	44%	57%	59%	54%	53%	65%						56%
Third Down Conversions	50%	50%	46%	45%	56%	40%	58%	63%						51%
Final Score	23-14	63-14	28-41	47-16	48-6	63-10	63-42	48-3						48-18

NOTES & QUOTES

Gregg Barrios responded to his recall as the No. 1 placekicker by booting six extra points without a miss Saturday and hitting on two field goals.

The Omaha sophomore, who opened the season by accounting for nine points against Texas A&M, lost his kicking job after missing a field goal versus Nevada-Las Vegas.

Head-to-head competition in practice, coupled with a Chris Drennan missed field goal and extra point against Oklahoma State, prompted NU coaches to use Barrios against KSU.

"We took a good look at them both in practice and they charted about the same," said Nebraska kickers coach Dan Young. "We decided to use Gregg this week."

Barrios admitted practice competition actually presents more pressure than game situations.

The workout competition, however, "makes it easier in game situations.

"There's a lot of pressure (in practice).

You're shooting against each other one-on-one."

Drennan has made 25-of-27 conversion kicks while Barrios is 17-for-17 on extra points.

On field goals, Drennan is one for two and Barrios has made five of seven attempts, including 37- and 36-yarders against KSU.

"We're just going to keep working with both him and Chris," Young said. "Right now, they're pretty equal. I don't see either of the two having a big edge on the other."

Nebraska owns a commanding, 61-10-2, lead in the Kansas State series, which began in 1911 and is continuous since 1922. The Wildcats last defeated Nebraska, 12-0, in 1968, the Cornhuskers' last Homecoming loss and their only home shutout defeat in the last 26 years.

Saturday's game marked Nebraska's first visit to Manhattan in three seasons since a 41-3 win there in 1985. The

Huskers won the last two K-State games in Lincoln, 38-0 in 1987 and 56-3 last year. Nebraska is 28-3-2 against the Wildcats in Manhattan, including 9-0-0 at KSU Stadium. The Huskers have not lost at Kansas State since 1959 (29-14).

Huskers Ken Clark and Tyreese Knox both cleared the 100-yard rushing hurdle in Manhattan. Clark notched his second consecutive 200-plus day with 225 yards on 20 carries while Knox managed 108 yards on 19 rushes.

Kansas State allowed another 100-yard rushing game by a Nebraska player. Tied with Kansas entering Saturday's contest for allowing the most Cornhuskers to top the century mark, the Wildcats now rank first by letting NU runners gain 100 or more yards 23 times.

Since 1970, a Nebraska player has now rushed for at least 100 yards in 14 of the 19 games against KSU. On four occasions — 1950, 1961, 1973, and 1980 — two NU runners passed the 100-yard



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mark against the Wildcats. Roger Craig (183 yards) and Craig Johnson (101) accomplished the feat in 1980, Tony Davis (111) and John O'Leary (100) did it in 1973, Willie Ross (103) and Bill Thornton (100) both passed the mark in 1961, and Bobby Reynolds (141) and Nick Adduci (108) did it in 1950.

Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier ripped through the Kansas State defense all three years of his NU career. Against the Wildcats, Rozier gained 153 (1981), 204 (1982), and 227 (1983) yards. I.M. Hipp enjoyed two of his biggest days as a Husker versus Kansas State, gaining 183 yards in 1978 and 207 yards in 1977.

Nebraska's Tom Osborne now owns a 154-35-2 record in his 16 years as a head coach and ranks as the second-winningest active coach in NCAA Division I-A. Osborne's .812 career winning percentage trails only that of Oklahoma's Barry Switzer, who is 154-27-4 in 16 years for .843. Kansas

State's Stan Parrish is 57-37-3 in his 10th year as a collegiate head coach, 2-26-1 in his third and final year with the Wildcats.

Parrish has already announced his resignation effective at the end of the 1988 campaign. Osborne responded to that resignation Saturday.

"I don't know what they're looking for down here. I don't think they'll find a better coach."

NU quarterback Steve Taylor moved to within five yards of tying Turner Gill on the Nebraska career total offense list. He increased his career, total touchdowns to 55.

Taylor rushed for 34 yards and completed six of 11 passes for 129 yards against KSU.

Linebacker Broderick Thomas moved into a three-way tie for fourth on the NU all-time unassisted tackle list. Thomas, Clete Pillen, and Mike Knox all have made 124 solo tackles.

KSU coach Parrish: "I thought our

team battled very, very hard, particularly on defense. We made them work.

"They are really good. They're big and strong. We have played eight quarters (Oklahoma and Nebraska) against some quality athletes. If our kids hang in there, I think we can win a game or two."

Wildcat quarterback Carl Straw, who entered the NU game ranked second only to Oklahoma State's Mike Gundy in passing yardage after hitting 27-of-41 passes for 336 yards against Oklahoma, completed 14-of-34 versus the Huskers with two interceptions for 137 yards.

"Nebraska played man-to-man and blitzed more than they ever have," Straw said. "They are big up front and don't set up the defense until the ball is snapped."

On the Cover: Cornhusker I-Back Ken Clark. Photo by John Bills.



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Thomas Remains Tight-Lipped

Broderick Thomas stood outside the visitors' locker room at KSU Stadium in Manhattan, Kan., following Nebraska's 48-3 victory over Kansas State, and contemplated the final weeks of his collegiate football career.

"I've got to make the best of it," said the Cornhuskers' senior All-American outside linebacker.

Thomas and his teammates have some business to take care of before it's over. "The Big Eight crown is out there for the taking," he said.

That's about as controversial as Thomas will get this season. He's no longer the salvation of writers looking for good copy, the sure-fire quote.

He's tired of fending off leading questions, of shedding sometimes transparent attempts to draw him into

controversy. At first, "it was like, 'Well, he's just going to be quiet for awhile. He'll come out and say something,'" Thomas said recently.

But he hasn't. And he won't.

He's as cooperative as ever, always good-natured and sincere. Try to draw him into something controversial, though, and you'll get "No comment."

"It's kind of hilarious," he says. "Sometimes, I have to say it three or four times to the same guy. 'No comment.' He might even go away, reword the question and come back. But I still tell him, 'No comment.'"

"If the media has something to say, then let the media say it. I'll let my Bike (helmet) do my talking."

Thomas has said a lot by his play. He's firmly established himself as a

leading candidate for both the Butkus Award and the Lombardi Award.

The Butkus Award, established in 1985 by the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando, Fla., is presented to the nation's top collegiate linebacker.

The final five Butkus candidates will be announced Nov. 9, with the winner being announced on Nov. 29.

The Lombardi Award, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Houston since 1970, goes to an outstanding college lineman, offensive or defensive, or linebacker.

Thomas is one of 12 finalists for the Lombardi. The list will be reduced to four finalists, announced on Nov. 26, with the winner being honored in Houston, Thomas' hometown, Dec. 9.

Thomas has "stayed reasonably healthy and has played most of every

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game," Coach Tom Osborne says. "We're real proud of him and he'd be very deserving of winning both awards. "We'd like to see him do it."

Nebraska has had three Lombardi winners: Rich Glover, a middle guard, and offensive linemen Dave Rimington, a center, and Dean Steinkuhler, a guard.

Thomas is playing well enough this season to be the fourth. "I know he is," says Tony Samuel, his position coach. "Broderick is having his best year since he's been here, I think."

Whenever Samuel grades film, he almost always sees No. 89, Thomas, involved in or near the tackle. "If Broderick isn't making the hit, he's just there. His intensity level has gone up so much," Samuel says.

Thomas has always played hard and given 100 percent. That isn't what Samuel means by intensity. He defines the term as "wanting to make every play," which Thomas obviously does.

A play during the victory over Kansas State illustrates Samuel's point.

Midway through the third quarter, with the game's outcome long since decided, Cornhusker safety Reggie Cooper blitzed Kansas State quarterback Carl Straw, who was dropping back to pass.

As Cooper made the hit, the ball popped out. It might have been a pass, but it looked like a fumble. As Thomas picked up the ball and considered running with it, an official ruled the play an incomplete pass.

Thomas was angry. On the next play, he crashed through the Wildcats' offensive line and sacked the disconcerted Straw for a 7-yard loss.

Such plays are typical of Thomas this season, providing, of course, teams don't run the opposite direction, which is happening with increasing, and irritating, regularity. Nevertheless, Thomas leads the team in both total tackles and unassisted tackles.

"That's usually a little harder to do from the outside backer than from the inside backer position," says Osborne.

Samuel uses his own system of "factors" to evaluate players. A factor can be not only making or assisting on a tackle but also hurrying the quarterback or knocking down a pass, "things where they're a key factor in the play," he says.

Thomas earned 16 factors in Nebraska's lone loss to top-ranked UCLA. "That's unbelievable," according to Samuel.

"There are times when Broderick doesn't even 'factor' where he's a key part of the play. The quarterback just gets rid of the ball and here he comes. Bang. He doesn't get a factor, but he

causes the quarterback to think."

As for what Thomas thinks?

Well, he's not saying.

"I've basically kept my mouth shut,"

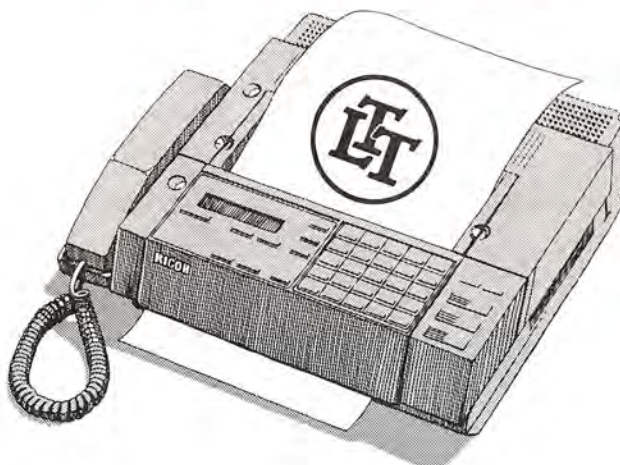
Thomas says with a smile.

He hasn't been silent, really.

"I've got things to say," he says. "I'm just saying 'em with my helmet."

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Mike Babcock

Black Shirts on the Rise

You've got to admit it's getting better, a little better all the time.

Nebraska's defense still hasn't gotten to where it ought to be. But it's getting there, as the Cornhuskers' 48-3 victory over Kansas State illustrates.

During a news conference early in the week, Coach Tom Osborne said he hoped, most of all, to see an improved defensive effort Saturday.

Nebraska was coming off a big victory over Oklahoma State, but the fact the Cowboys scored 42 points had him more than a little concerned.

Going into the Oklahoma State game, Osborne said he would have considered allowing the Cowboys' high-powered offense 28 points "respectable."

But 42? Well, that was unacceptable.

Osborne blamed much of it on lack of concentration and a breakdown in discipline, very uncharacteristic.

To recap, briefly. . .

Nebraska was emotionally prepared to play Oklahoma State at the beginning, evidenced by the fact the Cornhuskers

led 42-0 just over three minutes into the second quarter. And defense is played with emotion.

But once they led by six touchdowns, their emotion dropped. It was bound to. And with the drop in emotion came the loss of concentration. Think it's easy to play emotional defense with a 42-point lead? Well, it's not.

Consider: "I guess the most disappointing thing to me was the touchdown right before the half," Osborne said, referring to a 12-yard scoring pass from Mike Gundy to Hart Lee Dykes with three seconds left.

That pass capped a six-play, 80-yard drive kept alive by a roughing penalty, followed by a 41-yard pass from Gundy to Jarrod Green. Lack of concentration?

You bet. "To let 'em throw the ball deep in that situation. . . I could see them hitting an intermediate pass. But the deep pass and then the touchdown pass were disappointing because there's a lot of difference between going in (at halftime) 49-14 as opposed to 49-21,"

said Osborne.

That touchdown wasn't the only basis for Osborne's concern, however.

"I thought a couple of those touchdowns late in the game were disappointing because, again, we had penalties that kept drives alive, just a lack of poise," he said.

The defense got into some shoving and shouting matches with the Cowboys.

"We were all mad because we couldn't stop them, and they were mad because they couldn't win," said defensive tackle Willie Griffin.

Osborne was mad because he expects his players to walk away from such things.

"I don't like talk on the field because it's not the way the game is played, and it means you're not concentrating on your own game," he said Tuesday. "We have to have more discipline on the field."

It was in such a context, then, that Nebraska prepared for Kansas State.

The winless Wildcats had just lost to Oklahoma, in Norman, 70-24. But as was the case with the Cornhusker defense in the Oklahoma State game, the Sooner defense may have had difficulty concentrating on Kansas State after jumping to a 49-0 halftime lead.

Wildcat quarterback Carl Straw passed for 336 yards and three touchdowns against Oklahoma's defense.

So it was obvious if the Cornhuskers didn't take Straw seriously, if they didn't concentrate on the task at-hand, he could challenge them, too.

"Defensively, we're going to need to adjust to just about everything in college football, from the wishbone to the no-back offense," Osborne said.

And that's what Nebraska did.

Osborne came away pleased with the performance of the defense, which was tested. Kansas State's first play from scrimmage was a pass from Straw to Greg Washington, the leading receiver in the Big Eight, good for 38 yards.

But four incomplete passes and a holding penalty later, Kansas State set



The Black Shirts have made steady progress, in part because Broderick Thomas' consistent play.

tled for a school-record, 61-yard field goal by Mark Porter.

It ruined the Cornhuskers' hopes for a shutout. But that's about all.

By the end of the unseasonably warm afternoon, Straw had completed 14 of 34 passes for 137 yards (compare that to his statistics against Oklahoma).

He was intercepted twice and sacked three times, for 23 yards in losses.

Safety Reggie Cooper made the first interception, catching the ball as he dove out-of-bounds at the Nebraska 1-yard line, late in the first quarter.

Cornerback Bruce Pickens, starting in place of an injured Lorenzo Hicks, who was left home, intercepted the second, late in the third quarter and returned it 18 yards to set up the final score.

Pickens' interception was particularly encouraging considering it appeared he had the primary responsibility of covering Washington on the Wildcats' game-opening pass completion.

Kansas State's game plan relied heavily on the pass.

"Nebraska's up-front people are really tough and their linebackers are tough, so we figured we'd try to beat their cornerbacks," said Straw, who went into the game as the Big Eight's leading passer and is the reason the Wildcats rank 13th in the nation in passing offense.

Obviously, that didn't work, not only because the cornerbacks were up to the task but also because the Cornhuskers "were coming with a blitz the whole game, not letting up. You had to put the ball on the money every time."

Stan Parrish, Kansas State's lame-duck head coach, came away from the game impressed by Nebraska's defense.

"Those guys throw the whole sink at you every time," he said afterward. "In fact, if my eyes were right, I saw (Broderick) Thomas and all those guys in there the whole way."

Actually, Osborne substituted liberally, particularly during the second half. Starting cornerback Charles Fryar didn't play at all in the second half. But it didn't seem to matter who was in the game.

None of the Cornhuskers let up.

Marvin Sanders, a reserve defensive back, was credited with a team-high five tackles and one pass break-up.

That play, with just over six minutes

With NU getting solid play from its safeties (here, Tim Jackson), the secondary has withstood injuries.



remaining in the game, illustrated Nebraska's defensive determination. Sanders made a diving deflection of a pass intended for Washington, inside the Cornhuskers' 20-yard line.

By then, it was evident Kansas State wouldn't get more than three points.

"I figured three points was enough," said Cooper, who made three unassisted tackles and broke up a pass to go along with his first-quarter interception.

Nebraska's defensive front continued to show improvement, even though Lawrence Pete, the No. 1 middle guard, was suffering from tonsillitis and didn't make the trip.

Lately, Pete "has probably played the best football of his career," Osborne said early in the week.

In Pete's absence, Mike Murray and Junior Monarrez had most of the middle guard responsibility, with Brian Edgren, a walkon from Holdrege, also making the trip and playing some.

Middle guard is less of a concern now, and the same can be said of defensive tackle, where Griffin and underclassmen Kent Wells, Joe Sims, Paul Brungardt, and Ray Valladao are sharing time.

With Thomas, Jeff Mills, Jon Marco,

Mike Croel and Dan Svehla, the outside linebackers are solid.

Chris Caliendo has moved in as the starter alongside LeRoy Etienne at inside linebacker, with Pat Tyrance and Randall Jobman as backups.

The biggest question in the secondary isn't talent but the health of those playing there. Safety Mark Blazek, for example, has been bothered all season by a severe hamstring pull. Nebraska didn't put it all together defensively against Kansas State, according to Thomas, a captain and emotional leader of the Black Shirts. They're capable of playing better.

"Our intensity level was high," he said. "But it's difficult to play a team like Kansas State."

Thomas wanted a shutout and was disappointed by Porter's field goal.

But Kansas State or not, "we need to develop team confidence," said Charlie McBride, the defensive coordinator.

"No matter who we're playing, three points is a good accomplishment."

The defense is getting better all the time. But it's still not there.

McBride "knows how we can play," Thomas said. And the Cornhuskers didn't quite do it against Kansas State. ■

Photo by John Bills

Tigers Are In Trouble

Jeff Waldman, KMIZ-TV, Columbia, Mo.: "Everybody knows that Nebraska is going to win this game. The Iowa State loss won't help Woody Widenhofer's chances of being re-hired.

"These next few games are very important for Missouri because they are playing the top four teams in the Big Eight. After Nebraska crushed Oklahoma State, it looks like smooth sailing for the Huskers until they travel to Norman.

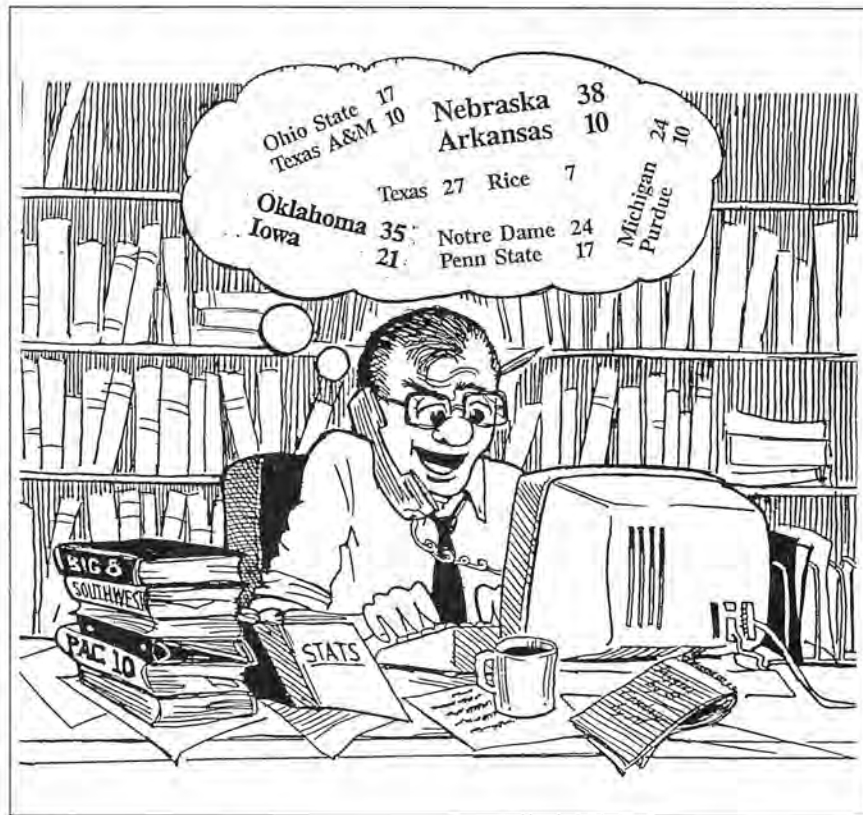
"It's tough to pick the score of this game because there are two Missouri teams. One can play very well and the other one is horrible. I wish I knew which one was going to show up against Nebraska. Let's say **Nebraska 48, Missouri 17.**"

Brian Neuner, KOMU-TV, Columbia, Mo.: "The question for Missouri is: 'What's the best way to avoid a massacre in this game?' Nebraska looked invincible against OSU. But if the Huskers do have a weakness, it's their defense. The OSU and UCLA scores help prove my point, so I think that the Tigers will be able to score. Look for Missouri to complete one big passing play to set up a rushing touchdown. The Tigers can put points on the scoreboard, but it will be tough.

"Missouri is probably asking themselves what the Huskers will do to them. I think the Huskers might look past Missouri toward Colorado and OU. **I'll go with Nebraska 35, Missouri 14.**"

Tim Gagan, KSDK-TV, St. Louis, Mo.: "It's obvious that the Missouri football program is down right now. Iowa State simply killed them (21-3). They only scored 3 points on the Cyclones. That's horrible. The problem with Missouri is that they're trying to find a good quarterback out of two true freshmen and the running game is nowhere to be found.

"The Tigers have nowhere to go in the Big Eight but up. However, you won't go up in the standings when you are playing the Huskers. I think that Missouri would consider it a moral victory if they scored half of the points that Nebraska did but I don't think that will



happen. **Nebraska will win, 60-14."**

Scott Puryear, *Springfield Daily News*, Springfield, Mo.: "If Missouri can't move the ball against Iowa State, they definitely won't be able to against Nebraska. Coach (Woody) Widenhofer may have sealed his doom against Iowa State, but a respectable showing against Nebraska would help bring him back to life. Watching the Huskers destroy Oklahoma State had to scare the Tigers quite a bit.

"This year seems like all of the rest at Missouri. The state is waiting for football season to be over with so Norm Stewart can take over the season's sporting events. The loss to Houston really killed Mizzou and sent them on the road to nowhere. The score of this game depends on what kind of heart Tom Osborne has. **Nebraska 58, Missouri 10.**"

Tami Pratt, KBIA-FM, Columbia, Mo.: "Nebraska's going to win this game. There's no question about that.

I thought Missouri would be competitive until they lost to Iowa State. We played the Cyclones for homecoming and they always seem to beat us on homecoming. The guys are really down after the loss, but they'll play tough and they won't give up. Their attitude holds the key to the score of this game.

"The Tigers have a good quarterback in Welch. He runs the option well and he doesn't make that many mistakes. But, the offense in general does, which kills the Tigers. The Tiger secondary is also a weakness that Nebraska may exploit."

Mike Levin, *The Maneater*, Columbia, Mo.: "Missouri is going to get slaughtered. The Tiger offense will not be able to move the ball at all against the Husker defense and Nebraska's offense will be able to explode at will against the vulnerable Tiger defense. Nothing against Woody, but he's out of a job after this year. **I'll go with**

Nebraska winning the game by 50 points."

Blake Powers, Hastings Tribune, Hastings, Neb.: "Missouri has been a real disappointment to me this year. I thought they'd be a good team after giving OU all they could handle at the end of the 1987 season. I thought the Tigers would be 5-1 or 4-2 right now and that this would be a key game for the Huskers. But now, it looks like this will be like playing Kansas. Missouri has really fallen from grace in the Big Eight."

"After seeing Nebraska destroy OSU, Missouri has to be petrified. Nebraska's offense went nuts. When the Huskers can score at will, you have to be scared to death. **Nebraska 56, Missouri 14.**"

John Colone, York News-Times, York, Neb.: "Historically, Missouri hasn't been able to do anything against Nebraska offensively. After the Huskers handled OSU so well, it looks like Nebraska and OU are once again on the top of the Big Eight. We pulled a UCLA on OSU, didn't we?"

"Woody thinks his job at Missouri is over. Everybody around the league wants a winning record, but only Tom and Barry get that consistently year in and year out. Let's say **Nebraska will win this game, 48-7.**"

Huskers Illustrated: "When Woody Widenhofer coached the Tulsa-based Oklahoma Outlaws of the USFL, his team claimed some very big scalps. They defeated Jim Kelly and the run-and-shoot Houston Gamblers, 31-28, and then knocked off Bobby Hebert and the USFL champion Michigan Panthers the following week. The Outlaws were 6-2 when they suddenly lost 10 games in a row and finished the year in last place. Not long after that, the Outlaws headed west to Arizona and Woody headed to old Mizzou. Coach Widenhofer didn't notice the change much at all. Missouri almost upset Oklahoma in Norman last year (17-13), but their overall record still plunged to 5-6."

"The days of Missouri and Nebraska battling each other to 6-0 outcomes are over. Nebraska will be able to tame the Tigers rather easily and place another nail in Woody's quickly closing coffin. With the game being played in Lincoln, let's go with **Nebraska winning the contest by the score of 49-10.**" ■

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Missouri Tigers

Missouri (2-4-1, 1-2 in the Big Eight) has fine individual talent, but team accomplishments are modest. Quarterbacks John Stollenwerck and Corey Welch are solid. So is tight end Tim Brutun, picked in preseason by *The Sporting News* as the nation's top tight end. Offensive linemen Carl Bax and Curtis Wilson are solid, along with cornerback Adrian Jones and defensive end Steve Vandegrift.

Mizzou has been unlucky. The Tigers missed a 22-yard field goal with four seconds left against Indiana and settled for a 28-28 tie. And Indiana is still in the Big Ten title race. Against Iowa State, Coach Woody Widenhofer's team suffered six turnovers (two inside the ISU 5-yard line) and lost, 21-3, despite outgaining the Cyclones, 417-283, in total offense yards.

Basically, Missouri has lost to good teams — Miami, Houston and Oklahoma State.

Nebraska and Missouri have three common opponents. NU beat Utah State, 63-14, while Mizzou beat the Aggies, 35-21, thereafter. Nebraska



Halfback Smiley Elmore

stopped Oklahoma State, 63-42, but Missouri lost 49-21. The Huskers beat KSU, 48-3, while the Tigers won, 52-21.

One key to the game will be Missouri's choice of quarterback. Stollenwerck (6-0, 200, jr.) is the steady veteran, while Welch (6-2, 190, fr.) has 4.6 speed and is more spectacular, both in success and in failure.

Widenhofer still has Missouri in the wishbone, but rushing production has been ordinary, especially against Houston, Indiana and Miami. Missouri's troubles under Widenhofer center on good teams. Now in his fourth year, Widenhofer has never beaten Oklahoma, Oklahoma State or Nebraska. He's also never beaten any bowl team.

Strengths: Despite the thrashing by OSU, the Tigers play defense well against the run. Jones is a top-quality corner. Welch could be a rising star at quarterback.

Weaknesses: Other than Jones, pass defense is a problem. Missouri's option doesn't seem to have halfback threats.

Key Matchups: Watch the multi-talented Welch. He'll be a good warmup for the Black Shirts as they prepare for slick option QBs at Colorado and Oklahoma.

Statistically Speaking: Quarterback Welch led Missouri in rushing against Kansas State (105 yards) and Iowa State (82 yards). He's also got the longest run for Mizzou with a 49-yard TD run against Kansas State. ■

The Report Card

NU	POS.	MU
A	QB	C+
A-	RB	B
A-	OL	B+
B+	E	C+
B	DL	B+
A	LB	B
B+	DB	C-
B+	K	C+

Nebraska vs. Missouri

When: Oct. 29, 1988, 1:30 p.m. (CST).

Where: Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

Media Coverage: Husker Football Network.

Missouri Facts: Heach Coach — Robert "Woody" Widenhofer (Missouri '65), in his fourth season with an overall record of 11-28-1. School Colors — Old Gold and Black. Nickname — Tigers.

Enrollment — 22,889. **Conference** — Big Eight. **Basic Offense** — Flexbone. **Basic Defense** — 3-4.

The Series: Nebraska leads 46-32-3 after 81 meetings. Last year, the Huskers won, 42-7, in possibly their best performance of the year. NU gained over 500 yards in total offense and limited the

Tigers to only six first downs. Having won 48-17 and 42-7 the past two years, Nebraska could set a series record. No Husker team has scored over 40 points on Mizzou three years in a row. The last time NU did it back-to-back was in the 19th century. Tom Osborne was only 2-4 against Missouri after six seasons, but he's since won nine straight, the longest winning streak of the series. The last Missouri win came in 1978, when the Tigers upset NU and cost the Huskers an outright Big Eight title. Despite the recent edge by Nebraska, this has been a close series with 15 of the last 26 games (Osborne-Devaney era) being decided by 10 points or less.

COACH'S EVALUATION

Tom Osborne

Happy Days Are Here Again

AGAINST AN EFFECTIVE PASSER,
THE BLACK SHIRTS PLAYED
ONE OF THEIR BETTER GAMES.

"We were generally pleased with the way we played. I'm especially happy with the defense. Kansas State has a good offense, and we held them to three points. We didn't play with a lot of emotion, but we did play with a lot of effort. Their quarterback threw well, and their receivers did a good job. But we kept them out of the end zone.

"So it probably was one of our better defensive days.

"It's nice (to have assured Nebraska of an NCAA-record 27th consecutive winning season). A lot of people have had something to do with it. The people in red down here today have had a lot to do with the record. That kind of tradition breeds success, and if people come watch you play, that attracts players. Then, we've had a lot of good coaches and players, and you have to go back to Bob Devaney, where it started.

"Ken Clark was a little sub-par today (physically). But you could see his balance. I don't think he had quite the quickness he normally would because of his foot problem. But he got through the game without aggravating it.

"We didn't want to leave him in because we didn't want to get him hurt. It would have been foolish to leave him in because he was getting tired. We thought he had a good day of work.

"I wish Stan Parrish well. He is a tribute to the Big Eight Conference. I don't know what they are looking for down here. I don't know if they'll find a better coach. I'm sorry he didn't have more of whatever he needed to stay because he would've done a good job, I think. They always play hard, and that is a tribute to Coach Parrish. They played as well as they could, and we weren't far from it. It wasn't a real emotional effort on our part, but we played hard." ■

TIGER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	7 Craig Lammers	5-9	163	sr.
	6 Ronnie Cameron	6-1	207	sr.
LT	73 Carl Bax	6-5	275	sr.
	78 Rick Trumbull	6-6	273	so.
LG	51 Pete Scott	6-4	285	jr.
	79 Miles Leisman	6-2	262	so.
C	50 Curtis Wilson	6-3	273	sr.
	54 Brad Walters	6-3	245	fr.
RG	62 David Washington	6-2	277	jr.
	63 Jay Greenwood	6-4	284	jr.
RT	64 Andy Lock	6-3	268	jr.
	76 Don Wright	6-3	237	fr.
TE	89 Tim Bruton	6-4	237	so.
	86 Larry Linthacum	6-7	237	so.
QB	13 Corey Welch	6-2	192	fr.
	9 John Stollenwerck	6-0	200	jr.
FB	31 Tommie Stowers	6-3	216	jr.
	25 Chris Hall	5-10	200	fr.
LHB	39 Jim White	5-11	203	jr.
	27 Sean Moore	5-10	194	so.
RHB	32 Smiley Elmore	5-9	202	jr.
	40 Michael Jones	6-2	202	so.
PK	3 Jeff Jacke	6-0	190	fr.
	83 Jim Weir	6-0	240	so.

DEFENSE

LE	71 Steve Vandegrift	6-5	277	sr.
	81 Ben Corl	6-2	233	sr.
LT	58 Darryl Darling	6-2	282	sr.
	65 Chris Russell	6-0	241	so.
RT	75 Kevin White	6-4	263	jr.
	91 Meredith Johnson	6-2	280	jr.
RE	98 Lee Johnson	6-1	273	jr.
	81 Ben Corl	6-2	233	sr.
OLB	49 A.J. Miller	6-1	241	jr.
	59 Brad May	6-2	237	sr.
MLB	55 Darren MacDonald	6-1	193	jr.
	30 Ron Walters	6-3	242	so.
OLB	16 Mike Logan	6-4	215	so.
	38 Brian Reeves	6-2	208	jr.
LC	2 Adrian Jones	6-0	184	jr.
	4 Jesse Holmes	5-10	178	sr.
SS	36 Otis Smith	5-11	180	jr.
	21 Harry Colon	6-0	196	so.
WS	18 S. Washington	6-0	185	fr.
	12 Charles Murphy	6-1	198	jr.
RC	23 Pat Ray	5-10	179	sr.
	34 Kenny King	6-0	187	sr.
P	35 Jimmie Michalski	6-1	184	so.
	3 Jeff Jacke	6-0	190	fr.

CORNHUSKER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	19 Morgan Gregory	6-0	185	jr.
	22 Nate Turner	6-1	220	fr.
LT	62 Bob Sledge	6-2	270	sr.
	78 Tom Punt	6-8	270	so.
LG	65 Andy Keeler	6-3	265	sr.
	53 Mark Antonietti	6-2	265	sr.
C	68 Jake Young	6-5	260	jr.
	59 Jeff Anderson	6-4	270	jr.
RG	76 John Nelson	6-1	260	jr.
	69 Bill Bobbora	6-3	260	jr.
RT	70 Doug Glaser	6-7	295	jr.
	77 Terry Eyman	6-6	265	so.
TE	43 Todd Millikan	6-3	245	sr.
	85 Monte Kratzenstein	6-4	225	jr.
QB	9 Steve Taylor	6-0	205	sr.
	14 Gerry Gdowski	6-1	195	jr.
FB	29 Bryan Carpenter	5-10	200	jr.
	18 Lance Lewis	6-0	200	fr.
IB	32 Ken Clark	5-9	200	jr.
	34 Tyreese Knox	5-10	215	sr.
WB	33 Dana Brinson	5-9	170	sr.
	21 Richard Bell	6-0	195	jr.
PK	16 Chris Drennan	5-9	180	jr.
	44 Gregg Barrios	5-8	180	so.

DEFENSE

OLB	89 Broderick Thomas	6-3	235	sr.
	93 Jon Marco	6-1	220	sr.
LT	84 Willie Griffin	6-3	275	sr.
	56 Joe Sims	6-4	265	so.
MG	96 Lawrence Pete	6-1	270	sr.
	74 Mike Murray	5-10	240	jr.
RT	95 Paul Brungardt	6-7	255	so.
	91 Kent Wells	6-5	285	jr.
OLB	42 Jeff Mills	6-3	220	jr.
	88 Mike Croel	6-3	215	so.
SLB	55 Randall Jobman	6-3	230	jr.
	47 LeRoy Etienne	6-1	230	sr.
WLB	40 Pat Tyrance	6-2	230	so.
	49 Chris Caliendo	6-3	240	jr.
LCB	8 Lorenzo Hicks	6-0	195	sr.
	28 John Custard	5-9	165	sr.
RCB	10 Charles Fryar	5-10	175	sr.
	5 Tahaun Lewis	5-11	170	so.
SS	17 Reggie Cooper	6-3	200	so.
	23 Mark Blazek	6-2	200	sr.
S	4 Tim Jackson	6-0	190	sr.
	23 Mark Blazek	6-2	200	sr.
P	46 John Kroeker	5-11	175	sr.
	48 Scott Beckler	6-0	185	so.

All-American outside linebacker Broderick Thomas said he wants to make enough money when he's done with college to try professional drag racing.

Former NU All-American quarterback Vince Ferragamo, who quarterbacked the Los Angeles Rams to the Super Bowl in 1980, said Husker quarterback Steve Taylor has a good chance at the pros.

"I'm sure the scouts will talk about his size and the fact he's not 6-2, but he's such a great athlete he could probably make it as a quarterback, running back or defensive back," Ferragamo said. "I think he can make it because he has the speed, savvy and the experience of leadership."

Starting senior offensive guard Bob Sledge said he will graduate with a degree in business administration in December. "When that's done and we finish the bowl game, I'm taking a month off. I need it," he said.

Coach Tom Osborne said **Ken Clark's** 73-yard touchdown run on Nebraska's first play of the game against Oklahoma State was, "one of the greatest runs I've seen." Osborne said he was pleased to see Clark break tackles and play through an injury. "He's starting to blossom," Osborne said.

Osborne also expressed his dismay with a Southeastern Conference proposal to eliminate the chance of recruiting Proposition 48 students. The NCAA Proposition 48 rule limits college eligibility on academic progress in high school as well as scores on the SAT and ACT tests. "The fundamental goal of college scholarship is opportunity. We don't discriminate on race, wealth or family background. If a student shows he can do the work after a year of college, why should he be discriminated against?"

NU defensive tackle Willie Griffin had high praise for Oklahoma State back Barry Sanders. "One time he came at me and put a move on and all I got was air."

Nebraska's defense may have given up a record number of points (for the Tom Osborne era) to Oklahoma State, but there is an explanation or two that may be overlooked. Nebraska scored so often and so quick in the first 20 minutes of



NU's defense - definitely not boring.

the game that OSU had a 4-to-1 edge in time of possession by then. "I tell you, we were tired by halftime," NU defensive back Charles Fryar said. Fryar had the job of covering OSU All-American Hart Lee Dykes on a number of plays and also returned an intercepted pass 76 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter.

Taylor said it can be a little confusing at times since Tyreese Knox is playing I-back and fullback these days. Knox who is backing up at fullback since the injury to Sam Schmidt and backing up at I-back since the injury to Terry Rodgers, mostly plays I-back. But against Oklahoma State he came into the game with a play for the offense and lined up at fullback. "The play was to fake to the fullback and handoff to the I-back," Taylor said. "I took the snap and turned around and faked to Knox and hesitated for a second because there was somebody behind him and I was expecting Ty to be at I-back. From now on, we've got it worked out to when Ty comes into the huddle, he'll tell me first just where he's playing."

NU safety Tim Jackson said the Cornhusker defense is improving whether people want to believe it or not. "Let's put it this way. Right now, we're just not a boring team to watch," he said.

Tight end Todd Millikan said he found out about the running ability of Ken Clark the hard way during the OSU game. "I was blocking and all of a sud-

den a guy came up and bumped me from behind. I saw some red and it was Ken. He spun around and really got moving." Clark scored on a 73-yard run on the play.

NU starting senior guard Andy Keeler is a die-hard Chicago Cubs fan. He said he rarely misses a televised Cubs game and he tries to get to Wrigley Field at least once a year.

Nebraska scholarship recruit Victor Stachmus, who was sidelined when he was found to have leukemia last spring, has moved to Houston, Texas, where he is undergoing treatments for the disease. He may have to undergo a bone marrow treatment but is still planning on attending Nebraska as soon as he is able. Stachmus was the first Oklahoma native to be a high school scholarship recruit at Nebraska.

Freshman fullback Andre McDuffy has moved to the No. 1 spot on the NU freshman team. Former starting linebacker Tyler Zahn, a walkon from Syracuse is out with a knee injury.

Defensive coach Charlie McBride said that redshirt freshman Dave Jensen may have a future at middle guard. He also said Curtis Cotton, who graduated from Omaha Central two years ago, is redshirting this year and is being worked at strong safety on the scout team.

Answering the criticism that the Nebraska defense is too sophisticated, McBride said things are more simplified now than they were five years ago. ■

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In Sickness and Health, But Not Row 4 on the 50-Yard Line

AS NU TICKET MANAGER, JOE SELIG HAS A JOB THAT IS SOMETIMES EASY, SOMETIMES HARD, BUT NEVER DULL.

He's the keeper of some of the most valuable items of autumn in Lincoln, father confessor to the many who don't have these items and want them, Scotland Yard when some of these items are improperly obtained or misplaced, and, in principal, the baby-sitter for the state's third largest city a half-dozen times a year.

He's personable Joe Selig (pronounced SEE-lig), the 30-year-old athletic ticket manager for the University of Nebraska, who inherited the position from such venerables as the late Jim Pittenger (1960 to '76) and Helen Ruth Wagner (1976 to '88). Selig, a native of Alexandria, Neb. (population 260), came up through the ranks. He interned as a student from 1977 until his graduation from UN-Lincoln in 1980, worked full time for two more years before assuming the post of assistant ticket manager in 1982.

After completing his MBA degree from the University's College of Business, he was positioned to replace the retiring Ms. Wagner, who stepped down in April of this year.

"I'm happy with my present job," Selig says with a smile. "You get to deal with the finest people in the world, Nebraska Cornhusker fans. Sure, there are trying moments, but 98 . . . maybe 99 percent of our fans are the most polite and appreciative people there are to be around."

That other one percent has presented some bizarre and patience-straining incidents with which Selig takes no um-

brage. He advocated and directed the installation of a self-containing computer system for the monumental task of accounting for and distributing Husker football and basketball tickets, just to mention a few of his responsibilities.

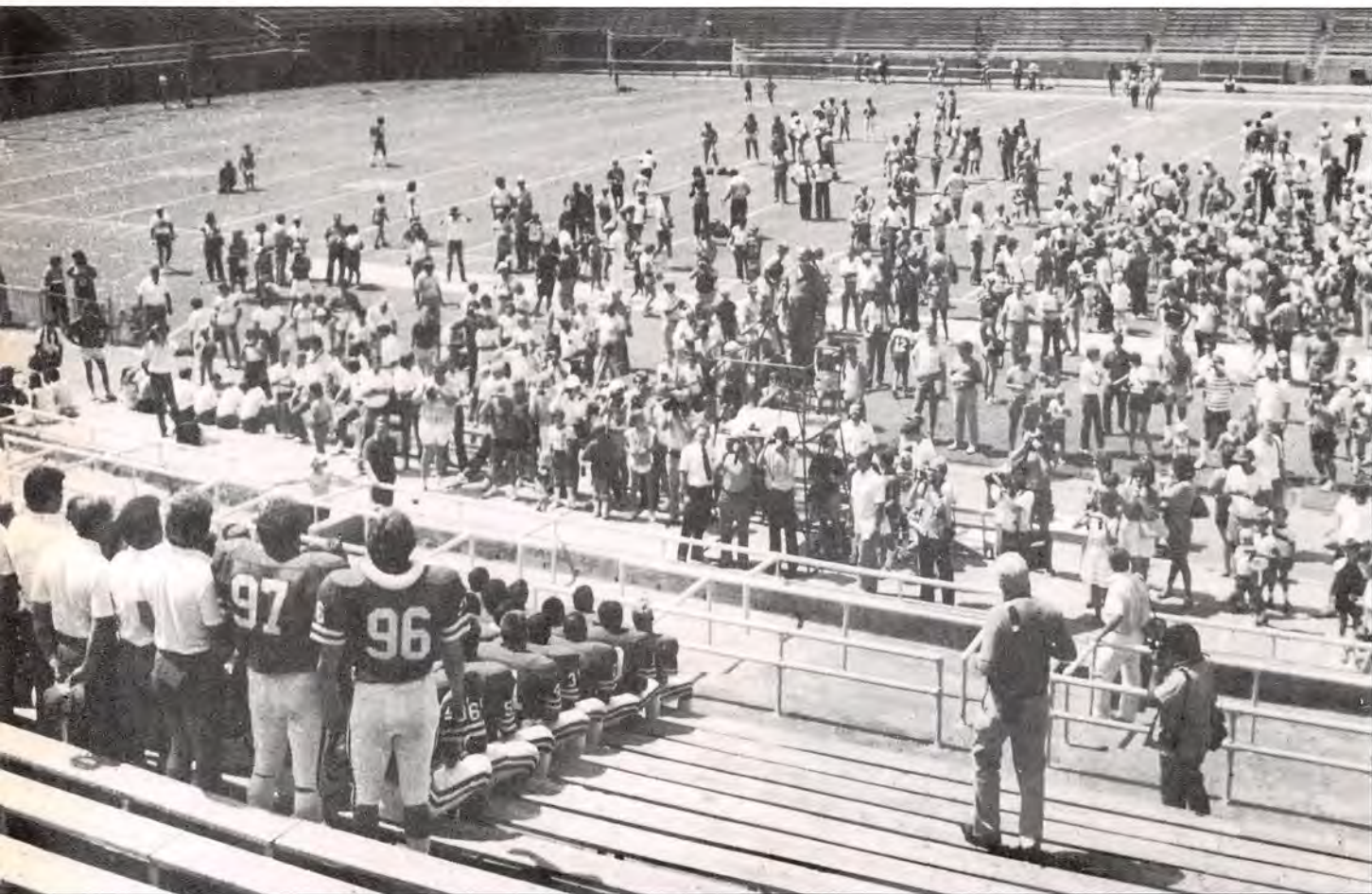
"Helen Ruth (Wagner) was all for the computer and that possibly was the biggest help of all," Selig says. "And another reason was that we had a rather vulnerable student ticket system and in 1981 we even ran out of student tickets."

"The students used to present their ID



Joe Selig (left) is only the third ticket manager for NU in the last 29 years. If it weren't for the tremendous excitement of Husker sports (above), Selig's job would be less than interesting.

card at the ticket office for a football season ticket and we'd punch it to signify their purchase. All the student had to do was say he lost his card, pay \$5 at the administration building to be issued a new one, and return for another football ticket. It's easy to understand the chaos that followed."



During the spring of 1982, in comes a \$100,000, self-contained computer system, which since has been upgraded two or three times at almost the same cost as the original purchase. Selig had it operational by the fall of that year and the problems, not to mention the hours of work, were drastically reduced.

"We print our own tickets but actually spend more time on basketball than on football because of the greater number of home games and the fluctuating basketball game dates force us to delay printing tickets, or in some cases, reprint tickets," Selig outlines. "Also, the system is used by the business office and football recruiting staff.

"When I first came here the full-time ticket office staff numbered 13 or 14 people. We now have six full-time staff members plus myself. Actually, after we get the first home football game taken care of the remaining chores are quite simply redundant because most of our fans have season tickets."

The absence of turnstiles at Memorial Stadium provokes the obvious question... how is an accurate count made of each game's attendance?

"Oh, that's rather simple. The computer immediately gives you the number of tickets out and then the other sources of working, media and bench passes are totaled, and there you have it."

Selig's office doesn't keep a waiting list for football season tickets but there is a compassionate policy for those who make up this group. He adds, "We put those who don't get season tickets on a game-by-game list and when, for instance, a visiting team might return some tickets we try to avail them to these people.

"It's obvious we don't have a marketing problem in football but in basketball, when the students are gone, we might provide a special promotion or do somewhat the same for some of the other sports."

But, problems do arise from a small group of perfidious Husker football fans. Some incidents are quite humorous and even self-solving, but others are ridiculous to the point of bordering on breaking the law. For instance, this fall when the daughter of a man who had season tickets died (the mother had predeceased the father), the daughter approached the ticket office for the right to continue purchase of the tickets and was granted such permission.

Shortly thereafter, it was learned the father had remarried and the surviving wife also petitioned to buy the tickets. Where did this leave Selig and his staff?

"We have a policy for situations like this and that's to have both parties work it out between themselves without involving the University," Selig says. "Usually, they do this, which was the situation in this case. They presented their solution and it appeared equitable, so, it was solved without any further negotiations or hard feelings."



If you think this is wild, you should hear Joe Selig's I-need-a-ticket stories.

their allotted but reduced number of tickets.

"Our policies in these matters aren't so inflexible that it prevents us from looking at each of these cases individually," Selig proclaims. "In some cases, there are mitigating circumstances that need to be addressed."

Then, there was the divorce case that decreed in the legal settlement the husband could purchase the tickets on the even years and the wife on odd calendar seasons. Both parties of this divorce later remarried and each worried about their new marital status affecting the original agreement. Selig added, "A lawyer representing both parties wrote us a detailed letter giving the change of names and addresses on both individuals so we wouldn't be confused in finding the correct address of the recipient for that year."

But, Selig confesses amazement to the extent to which an individual or groups will go to circumvent the system. When lost or stolen tickets are reported to the ticket office a "trouble pass" is issued for each of the misplaced tickets and the "trouble pass" overrules anybody holding the original tickets.

The mailing of tickets often presents a problem but Selig applauds the cooperation of the postmaster in helping solve most of these problems. One such incident occurred at a recent Nebraska-Colorado game in Lincoln.

The policy further covers the spouse and children of a deceased season ticket holder in the case when the parties can't come up with a solution, then the ticket office arbitrarily comes up with a decision based on its best judgment.

Recently there was the case of three eligible heirs appealing for a total of nine season tickets. They could not come to an agreeable solution, so, each was offered the chance to purchase three tickets, in which case each did renew



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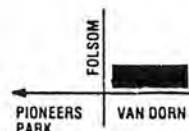
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When the Colorado athletic department received its allotment of tickets, the box in which the tickets were sent was torn open and, when counted, it was revealed a complete row of ducats were missing. Officials from both schools conferred and Selig's office issued "trouble passes" to protect Colorado's allotment.

"It turned out some student in the Colorado central mailing office took the tickets," Selig recalls. "Oddly enough, the student and his buddy stood in front of Memorial Stadium and sold the tickets.

"That wasn't so bad, but they saved two tickets for themselves and when everybody in that row was confronted by officers and those who held 'trouble passes,' almost to a person they pointed to the two kids and said they bought the tickets from them.

"They were arrested and returned to Boulder, I guess. I don't know what finally happened but it's a lesson that anybody who's looking to buy tickets on the street should be aware of.

"Not everyone who sells tickets of this nature goes to the game, and when confronted by the 'trouble passes' some unfortunate people are out both their money and tickets."

Actually, incidents of this nature don't seem to disturb Selig, who philosophically claims, "It's unfortunate things like this happen but without that type of interest, the Nebraska football program wouldn't be what it is today.

"I understand plans had been considered to construct an extra deck on the east side which would add 8,000 seats. The cost would be staggering and with as much televising of college football as we have, who knows? We might be right where we should be."

Selig married his high school sweetheart, Patty Miller, both of whom attended Meridan Consolidated High School. They have three children, which occupies most of his spare time, except, "I love to play golf. I'm not good at it but that's never stopped me from enjoying or playing the game." In high school he lettered in three sports — football, wrestling and track — and is completely aware of the sports-loving nature of the native Nebraskan.

Even with these family and recrea-

tional releases, you wonder how Selig can maintain such a pleasant nature personally and about the office. Maybe because of the humor in some incidents, as in a recent letter to the Nebraska ticket office, which reads:

Dear Sir:

I would like two tickets to every Nebraska football game this fall (home games).

I'm getting married this fall and we would like to go to a few home games as our honeymoon.

Please bill me on this. Thank you. Signed.

P.S. If I can't get two, I would at least like one for each game.

Well, so much for the priorities of football and matrimony in the state of Nebraska! ■



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Bowl Game Shuffle

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Notre Dame is the key ingredient.

As juicy morsels are added each week from the 1988 bowl recipe, Coach Lou Holtz and the Fighting Irish seem to have almost complete control when it comes to calling the shots for a possible national championship showdown.

First, let's take a look at the top teams when it comes to national title con-

tenders.

UCLA and USC are big-time players. They are the only college teams in America that can control their destinies; one will play in the Rose Bowl, possibly for a national title.

Notre Dame jumped to No. 2 after beating Miami (Fla.) and can orchestrate a national championship matchup

anywhere it wants, unless UCLA wins 'em all. The Irish are *very* appealing. For one, Coach Holtz has a program that's on the rise, improving from 5-6 in 1986, to 8-4 last year, to unbeaten this season. ND doesn't have a "name" player, ala Tim Brown in '87, but it's got those fans — thousands of 'em, probably millions, no, make it billions, all of whom are probably willing to abdicate their chief executive officer thrones for a pair of tickets to a Notre Dame national championship bowl game.

Florida State's still got a good team despite going 31-naught against Miami, a team that provided a dream game in a match-up with Notre Dame. The Irish won 31-30 in a dramatic finish.

Bobby Bowden's Seminoles have an excellent chance of going 11-1 because they only seem to have two tough games left: at South Carolina on Nov. 5, and Florida on Nov. 26. Hovering in the middle of the Associated Press Top 10, FSU would seem to have an outside chance of playing for the national title. Make that *way* outside.

Miami still has sex appeal. Jimmy Johnson's Hurricanes will coast until their three-week stretch (starting on Nov. 19) of Louisiana State, Arkansas and Brigham Young.

West Virginia could go to a major bowl, but there's concern about the Mountaineers' schedule. It's about as strong as Ben Johnson's post-race specimen: not much there, but enough to call off the party. Boston College, Penn State, Rutgers and Syracuse could all trip WV, sending Don Nehlen's team instead to the Funk Bowl.

South Carolina teeters between going to a major bowl and being a major disappointment.

Clemson's better than a canker sore.

National title contenders like Nebraska and Florida State may find Notre Dame calling the bowl shots in '88.





Its schedule isn't.

Wyoming will go unbeaten, but no one will notice.

What we have, then, is a powerful coalition similar to the Southern Democrats in politics. There are four Dixie teams that could slip into major bowls and sway voting on Jan. 2, 1989. Call them the Southern Bowlcrats. Toss in Notre Dame plus West Virginia, and it's possible the big losers this bowl season will be conference runners-up because the independents could gobble up the New Year's Day limelight.

But there's only one way to find out.

Give us the old college cheer: *Two-four-six-eight, who can really speculate? We can!*

To start, let's pretend we're bowl scouts. After getting plane reservations and press passes for a big game and our fuchsia sport coat back from the dry

Conference teams had better win their league titles because independents are primed to take the New Year's Day slots.

cleaners, we settle into some hard-ball speculation as to who we want.

If we're the Rose Bowl, we don't bother.

We're banking on Southern Cal or UCLA going 11-0 and beating the brains out of what's left of the Big Ten.

But what if we were Cotton Bowl big-wigs? We'd know either Arkansas or Houston is going to be our host team. We'd also know our bowl has a snowball's chance in Coral Gables of pulling off a national championship showdown. The only way that deep

freeze could happen is if we get Notre Dame. That's possible. Here's why. Holtz knows he'll be a Notre Dame legend if he brings home a national title in only his third year. And of all the major bowls that have at least one uncommitted invitation, our dear old Cotton is a cinch to have the wimpiest host team. Arkansas and Houston will have to hustle to make the Top 10 by season's end.

Unfortunately, we'll have to make the Irish forget they came here last year when Tim Brown lost his laundry, and Notre Dame lost its game. The other problem we have in Big D is that we're not really a warm-weather bowl. Warmer than South Bend, yeah, but not any nicer than Florida or South Carolina, where most of the top independents play (we're assuming, of course, that Clemson isn't in a conference, so to speak).

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Bowl Game Shuffle

What fan in their right mind wants to go to a bowl where it's colder than home? A West Virginian, that's who! There's our answer — we'll beg Notre Dame privately, but tell the Mountaineers we wanted them all the time. It's so simple. Let's rub our lucky shillelagh and hope we get Arkansas or Houston to go at least 10-1, then tell Holtz he can kill them and we won't mind, and finally, if we have to, give West Virginia a good deal on Dallas office space and Texaco stock if they'll just go unbeaten and play in the Cotton Bowl.

We're tired of being a second-rate bowl.

Next bowl, please.

How 'bout dem Awbun Tigas in dat Suga Beau?

If we're Sugar Bowl officials, we're worried. Why? Because our conference — the Southeastern — is too suicidal. Teams in the SEC beat more Top 20-caliber opponents than any other league in the country. Trouble is, they do that because they beat each other. We're just not going to have a national title contender this year from the SEC even though Auburn is probably one of the best teams in America. Our representative in the Sugar Bowl could be any of five teams — Auburn, Alabama, Georgia, LSU and — let's hope not — Florida. None are unbeaten. All could have at least two losses by season's end.

We need Notre Dame.

But we're too good for our own good. Any self-respecting national title contender will diplomatically pass us by because they'd have too little to gain. We're probably not going to have an SEC champion in the Top 5, but they'll still be tough. So, ask yourself: why play a strong team if people will still complain after a win that you didn't beat the highest-ranked opponent available? Also, Numero Uno could be playing in Pasadena and mysteriously lose to the Big Ten's virgin sacrifice, probably Indiana, maybe Illinois, maybe worse. If that happened, a prestigious contender knows it must win against a highly ranked foe to leapfrog to the national title. The SEC champ won't be highly ranked. And would you want to play Auburn if you didn't have to? Auburn can beat anybody.

So, we'll offer Notre Dame first.

They'll turn us down. Then we'll offer West Virginia, and they'll probably accept because they like Pat Dye's ties and our domed stadium, which will be tons nicer than the Sun Bowl in El Snowno.

If WV snubs us, we'll sugar-coat one of those Florida independents. Ah heck, worse comes to worse, we'll give Wyoming a shot if the Cowboys go unbeaten.

Let's say USC beats UCLA, but Notre Dame then thumps the Trojans a week later at the Coliseum. Great. If Notre Dame is unbeaten, ranked No. 1 and Orange Bowl bound, then the Big Red is set for a shot at the title.

We'll get the national champion next year.

Next on the bowl list is the Fiesta Bowl. If we're Fiesta officials, we're pretty slick dudes, and we want the world to know it. We're on the prowl for Screw-the-Orange-Bowl Part II. We'll give our first-born children to the networks and the No. 1- and No. 2-ranked teams if we can just get another national title showdown. We'll move the game to Easter if it makes Notre Dame happy. We'll give Miami exorbitant discounts at local Army Surplus stores if they commit. We'll even teach West Virginia fans how to read if their team's still unbeaten. There's only one thing we won't do — we won't take the loser of the UCLA-USC game. If we did that, the national title game is kaput. You see, UCLA and USC play so late in the season that the loser will surely drop to at least No. 5.

We want 11-0 Notre Dame versus 11-0 West Virginia. We need to rub that lucky

shillelagh, too.

Now, that leaves just the Orange Bowl. Pretend we're in Miami, right on the 50-yard line in the stadium. First, hide your money. Did we lock the car doors? Don't talk to strangers. With these minor safety precautions out of the way, let's talk national championship. For the sake of argument, let's say we cross off six teams from our list of Big Eight hosts. The winner of the Oklahoma-Nebraska game is probably going to be ranked No. 3, maybe No. 4 at worst.

We're very attractive. Why? Besides the high rank, Oklahoma and Nebraska are prestigious names with alleged weaknesses that will appeal to Notre Dame, Miami, Florida State and — spit it out — West Virginia. People seem to think OU's still tender because of its all-or-nothing offense. Skeptics wonder about Nebraska's proud defense, which one day plays like the flesh-eating Black Shirts then snoozes along like the Night

Shirts. And if we can get one of those highly rated independents to fall for that, then we'll let 'em.

All the key teams will want us. Notre Dame will because the Irish probably think they can whip either of the Big Reds. Miami would love to play another home-game bowl. The same for Florida State. West Virginia would get a prestigious bowl, and its fans wouldn't have to spend nearly as much money on travel expenses as they would at the Fiesta. We could get Clemson on that angle, too, maybe even South Carolina if the Gamecocks rebound to 10-1.

Too bad, Fiesta Bowl, we've got the best deal for all those glitzy southern independents, plus Notre Dame, right here in Miami. We're going to have the national champion.

Well, you don't think one of those L.A. schools will win it all, do you?

It's too early to tell. So, let's look at a worst-case and best-case scenario.

First, on the downside, UCLA and

USC could go unbeaten until they play each other. The Pac-10 champ is then No. 1 going into the Rose Bowl and subsequently routs the Rin Tin Tin representative. Case closed. No other bowl counts.

However, the Big Red would prosper under another scenario. Let's say USC beats UCLA, but Notre Dame then thumps the Trojans a week later at the Coliseum. Great. If Notre Dame is unbeaten, ranked No. 1 and Orange Bowl-bound, then the Big Red is set for a shot at the title.

The problem for any bowl that takes Notre Dame, however, is that invitations will have been extended a week before the Irish-USC game. Plus, Holtz's squad could lose its luster by falling to Penn State on Nov. 19, the first day invitations can be officially given.

So, if Notre Dame is then 9-1 or 8-2 with a decent chance of dropping that last game, reach for that shillelagh and rub like heck for West Virginia. ■

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Leader of the Pack

NEBRASKA QUARTERBACKS HAVE HARDLY BEEN TRIVIAL,
BUT THEY MAKE FOR INTERESTING TRIVIA.



As far as Nebraska quarterbacks are concerned, Jerry Tagge still ranks as one of the most productive.

Nebraska football conjures up several images, many personalities.

Big Red, Bob Devaney, a red-clad Memorial Stadium, Johnny Rodgers, Turner Gill, the marching band, Jeff Kinney. . . .

The most famous game: no argument, Nebraska-Oklahoma, 1971. (There's even a play based on this series now.)

The most famous player: big argument here.

The most famous play: no question, Jerry Tagge's fourth-quarter touchdown in the 1971 Orange Bowl.

When Tagge stretched his arms across the goal line, Nebraska gained the lead over Louisiana State and a national championship. Sure, Rodger's punt return for a TD in the "Game of the Century" with Oklahoma might have been more exciting, but there was nothing more dramatic in Cornhusker football history than Tagge's 1-yard, goal-line stretch.

And it was nothing but instinct, according to Tagge.

"I used to go through situations in my mind several times before games," said Tagge, now a sales manager for an Omaha office decorating company. "I had visualized it in my mind — if I got in that situation, I'd stick the ball out. It was totally a reaction."

Nebraska had taken a 10-0 lead against the Bengal Tigers in the first quarter, fueled by the news that No. 1 Texas and No. 2 Ohio State had both been upset earlier in the day. The national championship door had been opened for the No. 3 Huskers of Bob Devaney.

LSU had other ideas, however, and took a 12-10 lead on a 31-yard touchdown pass that ended the third quarter.

Tagge, now a 38-year-old married father of two, recalled that there was

little panic on the Nebraska side: the Big Eight had much more parity than it does now and had supplied several tough tests during the 9-0-1 regular season.

"We just knew we had to do something and decided to take it one play at a time," Tagge said. It took 13 plays for NU to cover 67 yards for a go-ahead score. The biggest play was a third-and-7 delay pass play to Jeff Kinney that carried to the LSU 5.

"That was the biggest clutch play of the drive. Our tight end Jerry List went 10 or 12 yards downfield and came across the middle and Kinney, who was playing wingback, came underneath him."

The LSU linebackers followed List, leaving Kinney wide open.

Kinney then blasted to the 2, with Tagge taking two sneaks to put it across against the Tigers, the top defense against the rush that year.

Tagge said he called the sneaks (quarterbacks called their own plays then) because he feared a fumble on a handoff. On the second try, from about the 6-inch line, the LSU linebackers were yelling and pointing at the spot over guard that Tagge usually headed for on a sneak.

The QB from Green Bay took the snap and stepped off right guard anyway. "I got stuffed," he said, "so I just kind of dove in there and pushed the ball up and over."

Tagge was named the game's most valuable offensive player for his performance (12-for-25 passing, 153 yards, and 16-for-40 yards rushing), though he said "mentally" it was one of his poorer games.

The 6-foot-2, 220-pounder played three years with the NFL Green Bay Packers, a year in the World Football League and three years in Canada before a knee injury ended his career in 1979. He moved to Omaha three years ago.

He counts the LSU/Orange Bowl touchdown as his most memorable moment as a Husker, and even has a photograph of the play hanging in his living room.

Ironically, Tagge said he doesn't remember much else about the game. Full-game memories center on another famous Husker win.

"The Nebraska-Oklahoma game is

still my most memorable game."

Tagge was one of a long line of memorable Husker quarterbacks. Test your NU IQ on these trivia questions:

QUESTIONS

1. Which quarterback is Nebraska's all-time passing leader?

2. What years did he play?

3. What was his hometown, and his famous nickname?

4. How did he get the nickname?

5. He was in Lincoln this fall under what football capacity?

6. He found his "place" in pro football performing what task?

7. This QB also holds the single-game

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records for most completions and passing yards gained. What are those records and who was the opponent?

8. This QB holds the Husker record for best completion percentage during his career.

9. A teammate of his set a school record for best completion percentage in a season. Who was he and what is his record?

Turner Gill was also known for what he didn't do.

10. What is that QB's hometown?

11. This quarterback holds the NU record for most touchdown passes in a game.

12. Four times, other Husker quarterbacks had thrown for three TDs in a game. Name them (hint: one did it twice).

13. This pair teamed up to set a Nebraska record for the longest TD

pass.

14. What was the record and who was the opponent?

15. What was Nebraska's most prolific passing year?

16. How about the Huskers' best game passing (yardage)?

17. This reserve quarterback keyed the 13-point, fourth-quarter comeback against Florida in the 1974 Sugar Bowl win.

18. Who did he replace?

19. This wingback threw a TD pass in the 1973 Orange Bowl rout of Notre Dame.

20. He threw the most touchdown passes for a season in Husker history.

21. David Humm was a left-handed quarterback. Name another highly touted southpaw QB who ended his Nebraska career throwing a different kind of ball.

22. This NU quarterback holds the NU records for most passes without an interception, and lowest frequency of in-

terceptions in his career.

23. Which Nebraska quarterback holds all of the school total offense records?

ANSWERS

1. David Humm, 5,035 yards on 353 completions

2. 1972-74

3. Las Vegas; "Dave the Dealer"

4. His dad worked at a casino.

5. He did color commentary for a Las Vegas station covering the NU-Nevada Las Vegas game.

6. He was a holder for extra-point and field-goal kicks.

7. Twenty-five completions for 297 yards against Wisconsin in 1973

8. Jerry Tagge

9. Van Brownson; 65.3 percent during the 1970 season

10. Shenandoah, Iowa

11. Steve Taylor; five TD passes versus UCLA in 1987

12. Humm, 1972 vs. Kansas; Vince Ferragamo, 1976 vs. Kansas State and TCU; Turner Gill, 1981 vs. Colorado

13. Fred Duda to Freeman White

14. Ninety-five yards, vs. Colorado in 1965

15. 1972, when Humm and company passed for 2,431 yards

16. The 1972 Kansas game; 360 yards

17. Terry Luck

18. David Humm

19. Johnny Rodgers

20. Vince Ferragamo; 20 in 1976

21. Jeff Taylor, who became a first baseman/pitcher for the Nebraska baseball team

22. Turner Gill, with 125 consecutive attempts without an interception and a 2.57 percent interception frequency. He threw only four pickoffs in his career.

23. Surprised? It's Jerry Tagge, with most season, career and game total offense yards. The game record is 319 yards (234 passing and 85 rushing) vs. Minnesota in 1971. ■



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ASK TOM

Q: What is your midseason assessment of the Black Shirt defense this year with the rather erratic performances so far? **Gary Unruh, Sterling, Colo.**

A: We're getting better. Giving up 42 points and a large number of yards to Oklahoma State was not pleasing. But in fairness to our team, I think the 42-0 lead kind of hurt our intensity. I think both teams knew the game was over. It was a two-sided deal. Oklahoma State is a good offensive team, but we also helped them. At times we didn't tackle as well as we should have. And we had some mistakes in alignments. Plus, penalties hurt us at the end, and we just made it easier for them to move the ball. Those things come and go. We had similar problems against UCLA, then at other times we have it under control.

Overall, I think the defensive line continues to improve. Joe Sims is getting better. Kent Wells continues to improve.

Lawrence Pete is doing a heck of a job, but we're still struggling at the backup noseguard spot. We've got four or five pretty good outside linebackers. At inside linebacker, LeRoy Etienne has played well of late, and we need him to play like he did those first few games. Chris Caliendo has progressed. Randall Jobman and Pat Tyrance are solid backups.

The secondary has looked good at times. I'm a little concerned that Mark Blazek reinjured his hamstring. Tim Jackson has played well all season at free safety, and Reggie Cooper has done a good job, but we'll be hurting if we lose either of them to injuries. Marvin Sanders is going to help us at those two spots and maybe even Steve Carmer — a true freshman.

I think it's important we come through pretty quick with some great defensive performances. We've got the potential to be a great defensive team. And we're going to need it down the road.

Q: What's your feeling on the change at Kansas State as far as their head coach is concerned? Do you think Kansas State or Missouri will try to raid your staff for a head coach? **Gordon Tigart, Grand Island, Neb.**

A: Whatever they do, I hope they make a long-term commitment to the new coach. It seems like colleges these days give a guy about three years to win the right number of games, then fire him if he doesn't. Of course, some coaches seem to fire themselves because there's just so much frustration they can't stand it. I think it's more realistic to look at six or seven years when a new coach comes in to turn things around.

About our coaching staff? Gosh, I hope they don't. We've been pretty lucky with our assistants. I think we've averaged only about one new coach every two years. That trend goes way back. When I took over for Bob Devaney, we only had two coaches leave, and we've been pretty steady ever since. Usually, that's when things go bad for a football program — when three or four guys leave all at once. That disrupts recruiting, which can really set you back in a couple of years.

We'd like to think Nebraska is a good place to coach football, and we try to make it an attractive place to stay.

Q: Do you think Steve Taylor is still in the Heisman Trophy race, and who do you think are the top candidates? **Jerry Nairn, Napa, Calif.**

A: I think the UCLA game probably hurt Steve's chances. I know that a certain amount of preseason publicity is necessary to win the Heisman. Having a good junior year helps a lot. TV exposure helps a lot, too, even though I'm not so sure that's fair. You'd think Troy Aikman and Rodney Peete will get a lot of television exposure as the UCLA-USC games gets closer. Barry Sanders is right in there. He may not win this year, but I would expect he'll be a strong candidate next year.

If you have questions for Coach Osborne, address them to "Ask Tom Osborne," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■



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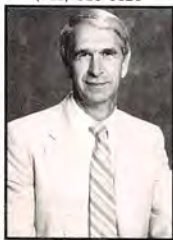
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